

National Youth Strategy



REPUBLIKA E SHQIPËRISE
MINISTËR I SHTETIT PËR
RININË DHE FËMIJËT





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National Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2029

TIRANA, OCTOBER 2022

Special recognition to the young people, the civil society organization and youth organization members that participated actively in providing opinions and in developing the National Youth Strategy 2022-2029.

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Thanks also to the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) and World Vision Albania for supporting the consultation process with young people's networks across the country.



List of abbreviations

AMA	Audiovisual Media Authority
ASLSG	Agency for Local Self-Government Support
ASPA	Albanian School of Public Administration
CEC	Central Election Commission
CoE	Council of Europe
CoM	Council of Ministers
EU	European Union
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IPSIS	Integrated Planning Information System
IWG	Interministerial Working Group
MEFA	Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sports
MoFE	Ministry of Finance and Economy
MoHSP	Ministry of Health and Social Protection
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoE	Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoSPE	Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship
MoSYC	Minister of State for Youth and Children
NAECCS	National Authority on Electronic Certification and Cyber Security
NAES	National Agency for Employment and Skills
NAIS	National Agency for Information Society
NASRI	National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation
NAVETQ	National Agency for Vocational Education and Training Qualifications
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPEI	National Plan for European Integration
NSDI	National Strategy for Development and Integration
NYA	National Youth Agency
NYS	National Youth Strategy
PHI	Public Health Institute
RASH	Academic Network of Albania
RYCO	Regional Youth Cooperation Office
SACRP	State Agency for Child Rights and Protection
SASPAC	State Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TA	Technical Assistance

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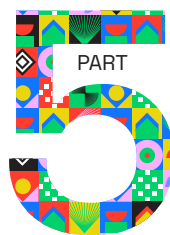
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Foreword



Dear Young People,

While Albania progresses on its sustainable path to European Union integration, this journey is being impacted by several challenges and opportunities that leave a mark on young people transitioning from childhood to adulthood and those seeking to play a more active role in society. The effects of the economic downturn resulting from the Covid 19 pandemic are still present, as are the issues of emigration and demographic developments in the country, global instability, and the great technological and social changes, that have brought about the necessity for the state to develop sound policies and methodologies that will ensure protection, trust, and the skills required for every young person to overcome challenges and embrace opportunities.

The National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 is an obligation the government has fulfilled towards Albanian young people, to place their needs and aspirations at the forefront of its efforts and the center of the country's development over the next decade.

“We cannot build the future for our youth,
but we can build our youth for the future.”

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

I am confident that the young people should be co-authors and play a primary role in the implementation of decisions affecting their lives. The National Youth Strategy development process was marked by an open and inclusive process of consultation with young people from every region and municipality in the country. With this process, we were able to engage and gather the opinions of over 1,200 young people, representatives of 45 youth organizations and organizations working for young people, youth workers, and other stakeholders that support and work with youth, enabling us to develop an accurate mapping of problems affecting young people, priorities, and wishes that we needed to address. I would like to thank you all for this!

At the conclusion of this process, I can proudly say that the National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 has addressed the issues you raised. I remain fully confident that the goals, measures, and activities foreseen in the document will contribute to improve for better the Albanian young people, to increase their activism and engagement in decision-making, in driving innovation and quality education, in supporting entrepreneurship and their integration in the

labour market, to young people's mental and physical wellbeing, to more opportunities for socio-cultural, sport, volunteering, international exchange activities, etc.

The successful implementation of the strategy will require the commitment, contribution and partnership among state institutions, networks and youth representation structures, youth organizations and organizations for young people, and young people themselves. This will be an important process of joint action and synergy between the actors involved, which will define the success of the strategy on one hand and will serve as a comprehensive learning exercise benefiting individual stakeholders, the young people, and the society at large, on the other.

Enjoy your National Youth Strategy 2022-2029.

Bora Muzhaqi
Minister of State for Youth and Children



PART
1

Strategic Context

1. Overview and Purpose of the Strategic Document

The Government of Albania views this situation as an opportunity to develop and place youth at the center of sustainable development. Precisely for this reason, a State Minister responsible for Youth and Children was established. Increased inter-governmental cooperation, i.e. cooperation among the local government, donors and other stakeholders, would make this an excellent opportunity. Investments made thus far will encourage Albanian youth to effectively deal with development challenges. Investments will increase effective secondary level education, reduce school violence, create employment opportunities, and lower the rate of child abuse, exploitation, and marriage. They will enable youth to reach their full potential. This strategy aims at making the development of youth a matter for youth themselves and create opportunities for youth to make positive changes to their lives, and effectively invest in their future, through increased participation in the country's life.

The Strategy is based on the 2022 - 2024 National Plan on European Integration, which provides that (p. 408): *"The 2022-2029 National Youth Strategy will be the document on which policies for youth participation, inclusion and support will be based. This document will aim at drafting national integration youth policies to address various issues encountered by young people nowadays, in relation to challenges, such as their involvement in decision-making processes, employment, education, technology and innovation, increase activities related to arts and crafts, higher number of sports activities, volunteerism, etc. The 2022 - 2029 National Youth Strategy will be in compliance with the 2019 - 2027 European Youth Strategy."*

This strategy is drafted pursuant to Law No. 75/2019 "On Youth", which provides the

legal basis for drafting strategic policies and programs for youth. The Interministerial Working Group (IWG) for the development of this strategy was established by the Order dated 30.12.2021 of Albania's Prime Minister, His Excellency Mr. Edi Rama.

Work on this strategy commenced with a series of consultation sessions with youth across the country, in which the government was represented by the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Youth and Children. Over 1200 young people participated in these consultation sessions. Additional consultation meetings were held with 45 different youth organizations and 61 youth workers representing all municipalities. Regular consultations were also held with the IWG upon its establishment.

The first strategy drafts were also consulted with a group of 200 young people in the meetings held in Children's Town in Korça on 19-20 March 2022.

The youth strategy national policy and programming efforts are focused on ensuring equal rights and opportunities, support and engagement for vulnerable, marginalized youth and youth most affected by poverty, violence, maltreatment, disability, and social exclusion. This strategy intends to guide Albanian youth towards further action that positively affects their future. The policies designed for the purposes of this strategy comprise the following goals:

- ▶ Youth actively participating in society and feeling empowered to speak for themselves.
- ▶ Building youth employment skills, supported by youth-oriented career counseling and employment services, increasing and improving opportunities to enter the labour market on the basis of equity and equal chances.
- ▶ Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth.
- ▶ Innovation and quality education to support youth in achieving their full potential
- ▶ Youth safety, protection and inclusion across their diversity, particularly at risk or vulnerable youth.
- ▶ Coordinated, evidence-based cross-sectoral youth policies with well-funded provision, monitoring and horizontal and vertical evaluation mechanisms.

1.1 Linking the National Youth Strategy with the 2021-2025 Government Program

Youth is at the center of the 2021-2025 governance program, as it considers youth development and its role in the country's development as integrated into the main areas of the program.

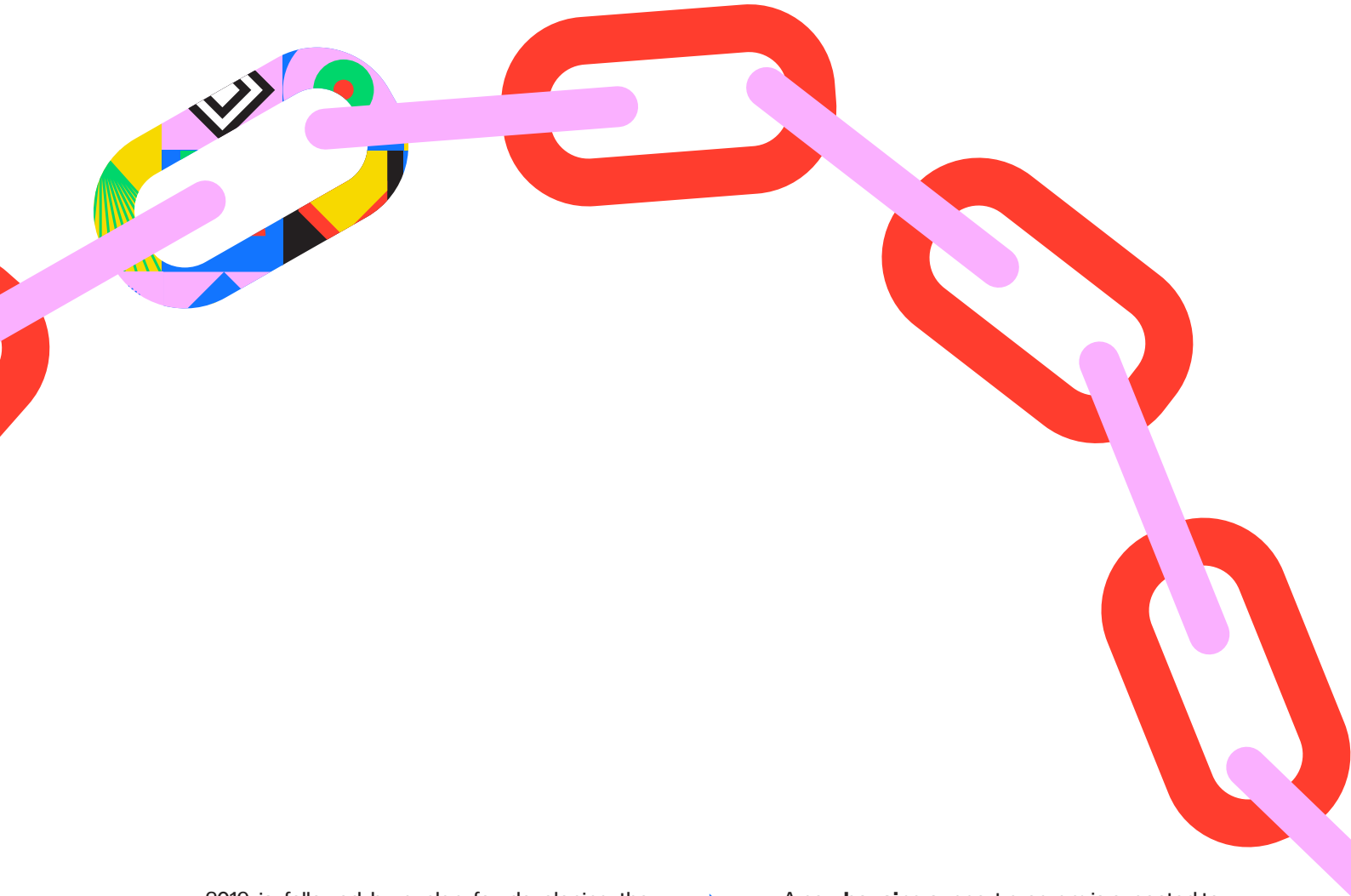
- ▶ In terms of **economic development**, the government program emphasizes the trust that the government has in youth *as a force that will accelerate progress towards the next generation in Albania*. Thus, a commitment has been made not only to provide better education opportunities in priority areas, such as natural sciences, information technology and engineering, but also real opportunities for them to become future entrepreneurs in the fields of technology and innovation in order to efficiently compete in the global market.

Youth is at the center of the 2021-2025 governance program, as it considers youth development and its role in the country's development as integrated into the main areas of the program.

- ▶ In the process of developing a **strong economy based on modernization, productivity and competitiveness**, Albania is viewed as a regional hub for new ventures in digital economy, providing dignified work for youth in order to achieve a qualitative cornerstone in youth employment.
- ▶ In terms of developing the **knowledge society**, the government program aims at rebuilding the education system to make it more accessible and to provide modern infrastructure by driving youth toward the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, which not only guarantees a safe future for them, but also the development and competitiveness of the country. Being competitive in the global reality

creates expectations for younger generations to learn *foreign languages and coding starting from the first grade, and we will internationalize our universities in cooperation with counterpart universities*. The government vision for Albania 2030 does not only consider youth in terms of developing service infrastructure for their care and growth. Special attention is paid to developing new policies for better health, higher quality education, and alternative spaces that promote youth training and talents.

- ▶ Regarding **education**, as also provided in the 2021-26 National Education Strategy, the development of new school infrastructure resulting also from the damages of the earthquakes in



2019 is followed by a plan for developing the education system to provide young people with competitive knowledge and information. This will be achieved through: investments in technology and laboratory infrastructure, as well as enhancing the value of diplomas in the labour market and strengthening local higher education institutions. Quality growth is expected in education as a result of English becoming compulsory from the first grade, provision of coding courses and development of school sports programs.

- ▶ In the field of **health**, the operationalization of 10 model family medicine centers with integrated socio-health services is expected to provide youth-specific services.

- ▶ A new **housing** support program is expected to provide new families ALL 1 million support for up-front costs and the mitigation of interest rates when purchasing their homes. Such a measure does not discontinue the social housing program in large municipalities, the number of which will reach 2,000 per year.
- ▶ Youth entrepreneurship will garner more attention in the process of **small business** development. The support fund for new start-ups is increased fivefold, to EUR 10 million.
- ▶ In the **development of villages towards rural tourism**, the program has provided incentive packages for young people and women who will be involved in this sector.

1.2 Linking the National Youth Strategy with the UN Youth Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals

The current world population includes 1.8 billion youth aged 10-24 years, thus being the largest youth generation in history. Around 90 percent of them live in developing countries, where they constitute the majority of the population. The world population for this age group is expected to reach circa 2 billion by 2030, with 1.9 billion youth turning 15 years of age¹. More connected to each other than ever before, youth nowadays also wish to contribute to the sustainability of their communities, by proposing innovative solutions, urging social progress and inspiring political change. They are also agents of change, mobilizing to further the Sustainable Development Goals to improve human lives and the planet's health.

The 2030 UN Youth Strategy is based on the global vision of a world in which the human rights of every young person are realized; every young person is empowered to reach their full potential; and which recognizes the capacity, resilience and positive contribution of youth as agents of change².

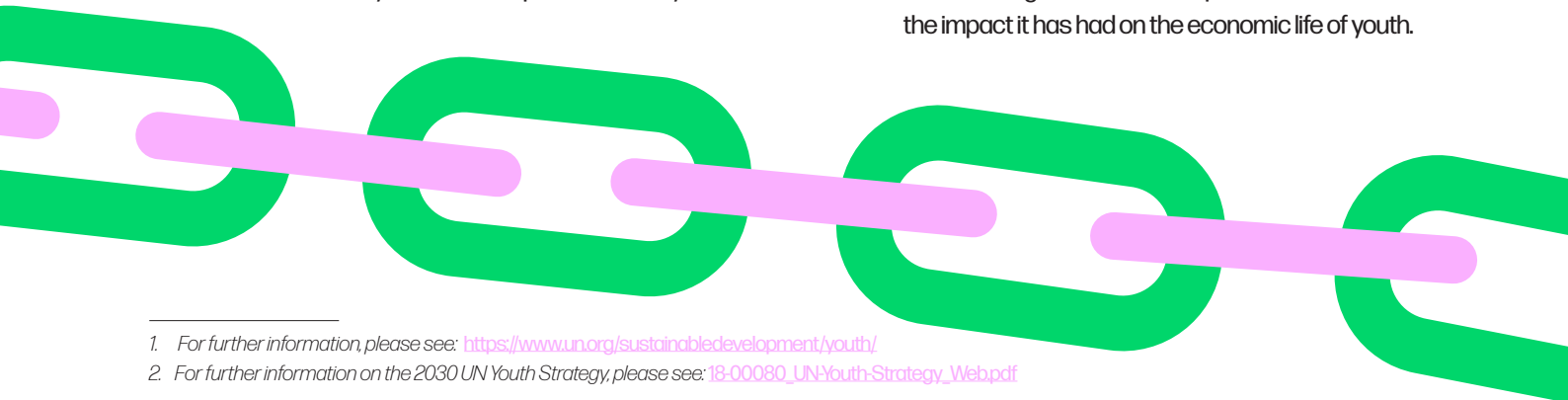
Equipped with the necessary skills and opportunities to reach their potential, youth can be a driving force supporting development and contributing to peace and security. Based on the developments of this strategy, youth-led organizations are expected to be encouraged and empowered to participate in adopting and transferring the goals of the 2030 Agenda into local, national, and regional policies. Through political engagement and suitable resources, youth have the potential to transform the world most effectively into a better place for everyone.

From the SDGs perspective, it is particularly important that no child or young person is left behind and without development. The SDGs directly impacting youth and their development in this strategy are as follows:

- ▶ SDG 3 - Good health and wellbeing - ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being of youth, particularly under the circumstances of living through a pandemic such as COVID-19, remains a key global objective to be achieved.
- ▶ SDG 4 - Quality education is closely linked to better opportunities for employment and career progression to escape poverty. The pandemic situation has also impacted this goal by directly reducing the number of children attending school, thus threatening the up-to-date education achievements across the world.
- ▶ SDG 5 - Gender equality - current developments regarding gender equality in Albania indicate that equality is a foundational requirement to ensure sustainable and peaceful development. This strategy seeks to address this goal in every aspect, by trying to urge the implementation of measures on female youth employment and protection against domestic violence. At the same time, the strategy also tackles issues related to supporting youth expression in terms of their gender identities and LGBTI rights.
- ▶ SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth - this objective has challenged every government across the globe due to the pandemic crisis and the impact it has had on the economic life of youth.

1. For further information, please see: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/youth/>

2. For further information on the 2030 UN Youth Strategy, please see: [18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf](#)



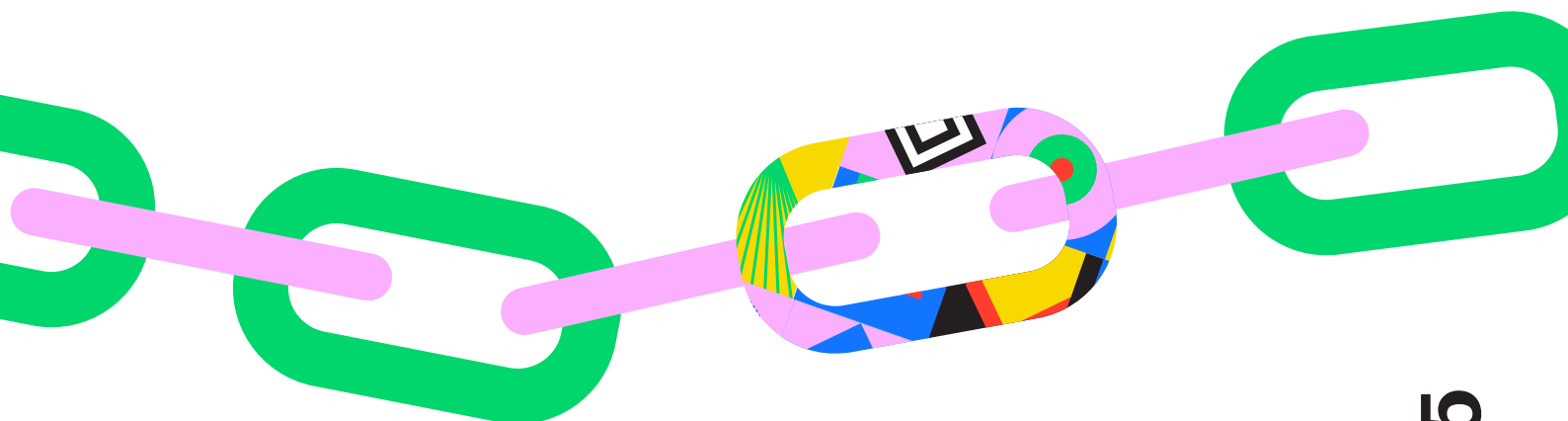
Taking measures to ensure ongoing employment of youth domestically by increasing youth mobility and employment outside of urban centers is a priority of the Minister of State for Youth and Children in collaboration with the line ministries that are responsible for employment.

- ▶ SDG 10 - Reducing inequalities remains a fundamental priority of this strategy in regard to the developmental philosophy of not leaving any youth behind and by making them an integral part in the achievement of sustainable development goals through ensuring their engagement in every process.
- ▶ SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities can only be regarded as such when youth can build their lives there without viewing migration within and outside the country as an option of individual development. Through the increase of opportunities for employment, recreation, and social engagement at municipal level with dedicated youth spaces, greater sustainability and urban and rural development across the country will be achieved.
- ▶ SDG 13 - Climate action in a global situation where every year marks increasingly higher records of global warming and where the quality of air and water is deteriorating, requires the involvement of youth and youth organizations to bring about changes to the global approach to this phenomenon. The war in Ukraine and the pandemic further exacerbate the challenge and difficulties for development in this area, but this strategy considers the involvement in green deals on employment and economic development as measures that would also have an impact on this process. The engagement of youth in climate actions

remains a priority.

- ▶ SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions constitute the core of the development regarding the work with youth, by ensuring that the institutions responsible provide not only quality services to youth, but also youth-friendly and youth-adapted services. The institutional strengthening of organizations and young people, by enhancing their role in the development of an effective justice system, is viewed as a priority under these strategy measures.
- ▶ SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals ensure complete levels of cooperation with the UN and its network of organizations present in Albania, as well as partnerships at regional level by founding them on youth collaboration based on the experience acquired through the cooperation established in the framework of RYCO.

The youth in all consultation meetings with government representatives have strongly emphasized the need for more employment opportunities, career counselling and professional development within the country, in line with SDG 8. They aim and view their development as linked to innovation and quality education, as well as to the protection and development of the country and environment by relating these requests to SDGs 4 and 13. Young people are not satisfied with just their requests for good physical and mental health, but also require increased inclusion in the society and not to be excluded from development. This request is linked to SDGs 3, 10, 11 and 16. Meanwhile, their requests for youth collaboration and mobility are based on SDG 17.



1.3 Linking the National Youth Strategy with the Stabilization and Association Agreement between the Republic of Albania and European Communities and their Member States (SAA)

The Stabilization and Association Agreement constitutes a key guiding document for the policies undertaken by Albania in line with the European integration process. Chapter V, which includes general provisions by way of Article 77 setting forth work conditions and equal opportunities, informs the aspects of youth employment in the strategy and the establishment of conditions for them to seek their professional future career in Albania.

Heading VII of the SAA regarding Freedom, Justice and Security interlinks with the goals of this strategy in every aspect, including:

- ▶ Article 78 that provides for the strengthening of institutions and rule of law in the framework of strengthening youth organizations and supporting youth's independent organization, volunteerism, active participation in the socio-political sphere in the country and their protection, particularly in dangerous situations or when in contact with the law.

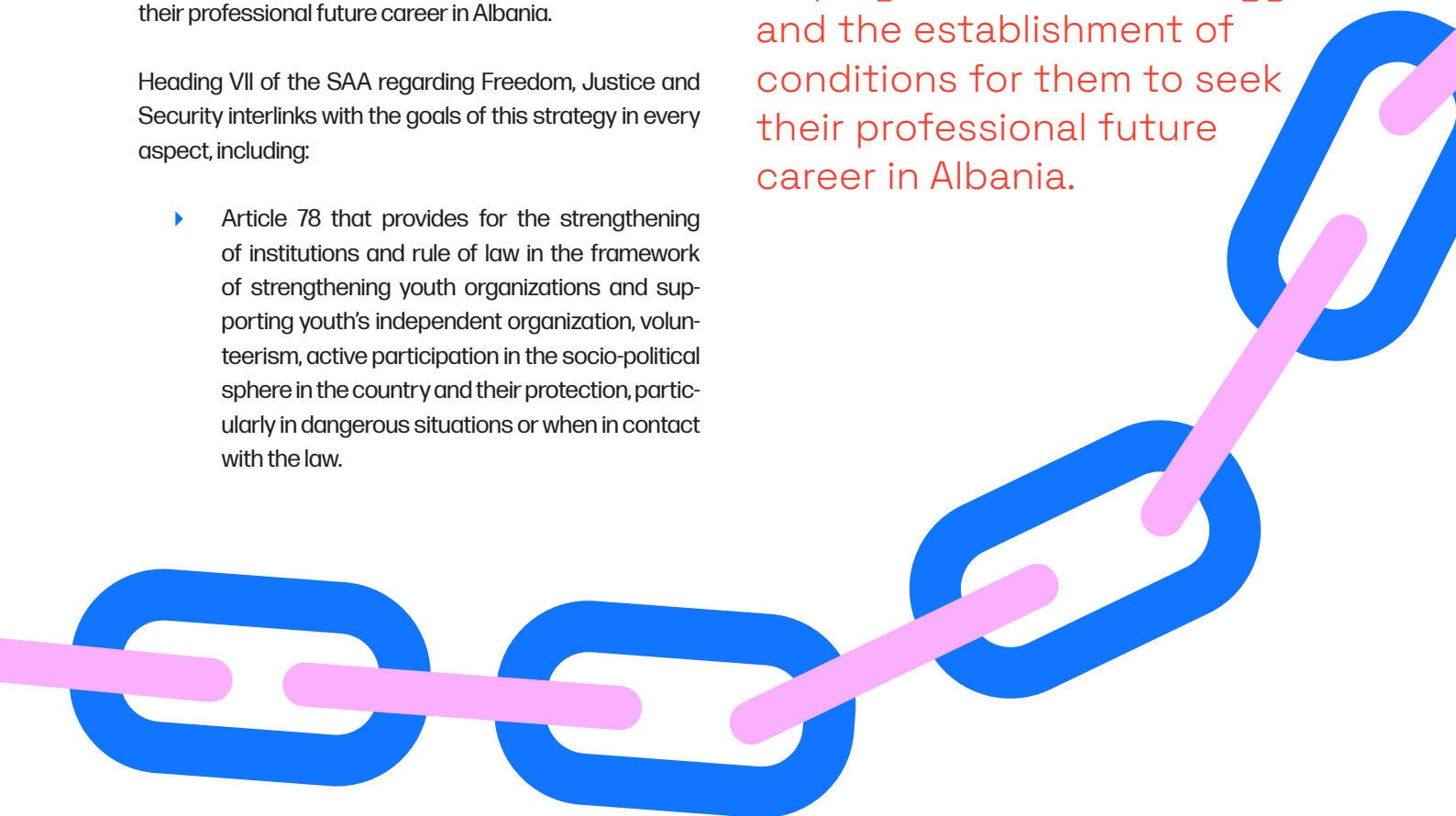
Heading VIII of the SAA addressing cooperation policies links the strategy with some of the key challenges the strategy aims to tackle, both regarding youth development, and youth engagement in European integration processes:

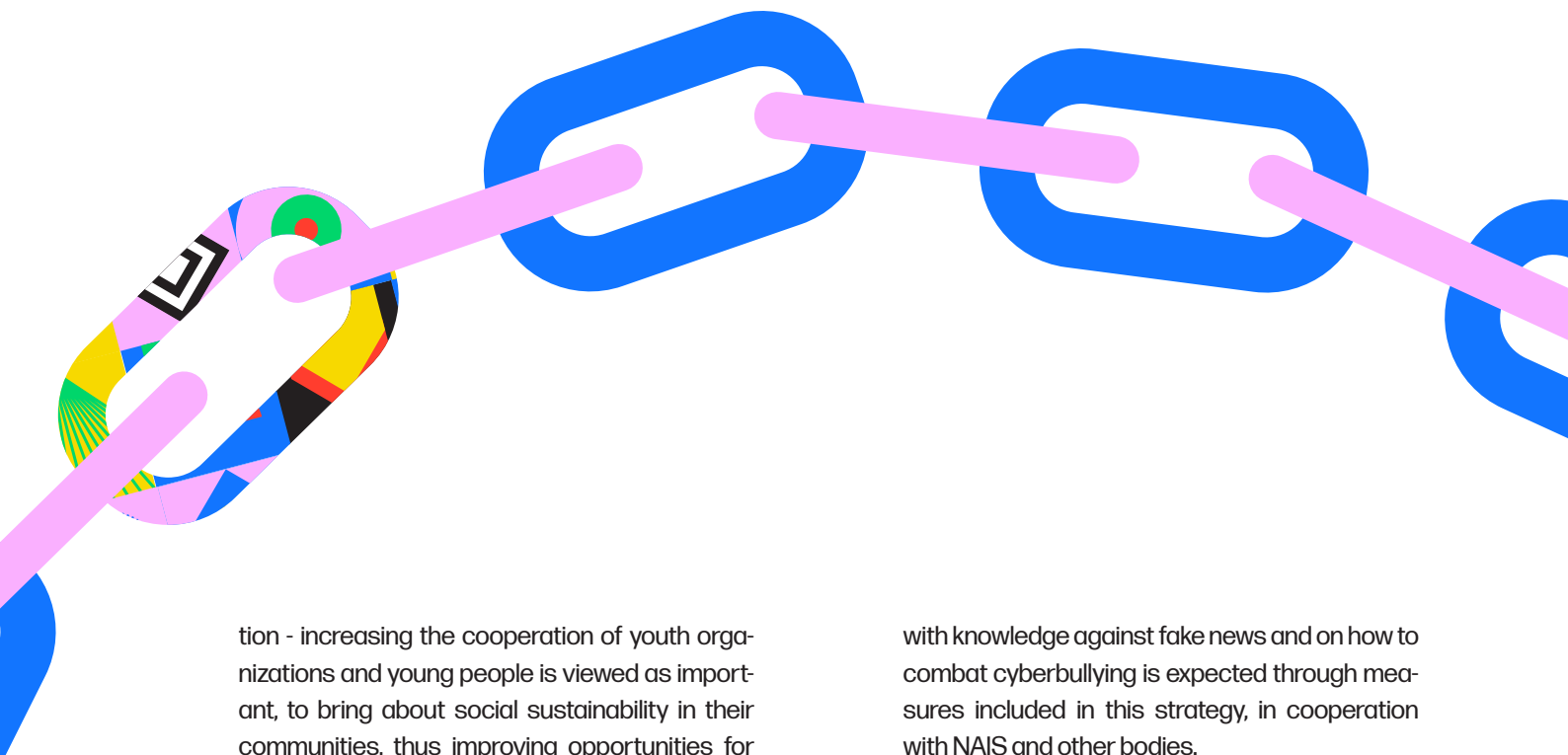
- ▶ In the framework of Article 88 - Statistical coop-

Chapter V sets work conditions and equal opportunities, informs the aspects of youth employment in the strategy and the establishment of conditions for them to seek their professional future career in Albania.

eration - it is important to compile disaggregated data on youth at regional or municipal levels in order to enable well-informed youth policy development. The generation of statistics would also enable youth research to be carried out at academic and research institutions.

- ▶ In the framework of Article 99 - Social coopera-





tion - increasing the cooperation of youth organizations and young people is viewed as important, to bring about social sustainability in their communities, thus improving opportunities for inclusion and non-discrimination.

- ▶ In the framework of Article 100 - Education and training - and in line with the developments stipulated in the national education strategy and the employment and training strategy, the role of youth in the improvement of education, related employment benefits and skill-building processes and career services remains critical in this strategy. It views such processes as also being linked to European developments with regard to youth support, such as the youth guarantee.
- ▶ In the framework of Article 101 - Cultural cooperation - the strategy has foreseen relevant measures that increase cultural cooperation with Europe, taking Tirana's announcement as the European Youth Capital as an example, but also by urging the enhancement of after-school activities quality through involvement in arts, crafts and amateur sports activities.
- ▶ In the framework of Article 103 - Information Society - the strategy aims at digitalizing national level information services for youth through a mini-revolution as regards the manner in which youth obtain information about employment, education and recreation, and by establishing safe digital spaces for them. Providing youth

with knowledge against fake news and on how to combat cyberbullying is expected through measures included in this strategy, in cooperation with NAIS and other bodies.

- ▶ In the framework of Article 109: Cooperation in scientific research and technological development - the strategy includes steps toward employment development based on technological development, by providing opportunities to enhance knowledge regarding coding and information technologies in a broader context beyond just schools. Scientific cooperation is expected to result in the establishment of the "youth studies" concept as a separate scientific research field.
- ▶ In the framework of Article 110 - Regional and local development - the strategy builds upon the developments that have taken place with regard to local youth cooperation, such as the RYCO program or the appointment of youth-dedicated civil servants in every municipality. The expansion in the number of Local Youth Councils is taking place across the country and the strategy includes measures to strengthen their capacities for more youth presence in local policy-making processes.
- ▶ In the framework of Article 111 - Public Administration - the strategy builds upon the success of internship programs for youth with excellent grades and the national plan for work practices, aiming at an increasingly younger public administration.

1.4 Linking the National Youth Strategy with the EU Youth Strategy

The European Youth Strategy is based on 11 European youth goals, which were defined in dialog rounds in 2017-18. The consultation meetings with young men and women, their organizations, and government representatives were based on the strategy's concept of dialog with youth. The points of view expressed at consultation meetings both at the EU and Albanian level became the basis for the development of the strategy vision and concepts. The EU Youth Strategy is based on the following 11 goals that are also included in the Albanian National Youth Strategy:

Three verbs were used in the European Youth Strategy to mark the key areas of the youth sector: Engage, Connect, and Empower.

- 
1. Connecting the EU with youth
 2. Equality of all genders
 3. Inclusive societies
 4. Information and constructive dialog
 5. Mental health and wellbeing
 6. Moving rural youth forward
 7. Quality employment for all
 8. Quality learning
 9. Space and participation for all
 10. Sustainable green Europe
 11. Youth Organizations and European Youth programmes

There is agreement that the European Youth Strategy should contribute to realising this vision by mobilising EU level policy instruments as well as actions at national, regional and local level. Three verbs were used in the European Youth Strategy to mark the key areas of the youth sector: **Engage, Connect, and Empower.**

1.5 Linking the National Youth Strategy with the Youth Strategy of the Council of Europe

This strategy aims at encouraging youth across Europe to actively support, protect, promote and benefit from the core human rights, democracy and rule of law values of the Council of Europe. The strategic objectives of this document aim at increasing the engagement and participation of young men and women in democratic processes, human rights strengthening and decision making.³

These elements are included in the national strategy with specific measures to increase youth participation in community and political life in the country. In its youth strategic document, the Council of Europe aims to accomplish the following thematic priorities:

- ▶ Revitalising pluralist democracy
- ▶ Youth access to rights
- ▶ Living together in inclusive societies
- ▶ Youth work

1.6 Linking the National Youth Strategy with the Western Balkans Agenda for innovation, scientific research, education, culture, youth and sport

The National Youth Strategy also reflects the Western Balkans agenda,⁴ which introduces a long-term economic cooperation strategy and framework while also having a positive vision and long-term outlook, especially for youth.

1. Supporting the digital transformation;
2. Promoting the implementation of the Western Balkans Green Agenda and its five pillars;
3. Promoting and supporting brain circulation, especially with the Western Balkans diaspora;
4. Developing high-quality standards for European vocational education and training as a reference for the development of skills, including micro-credentials; feeding into knowledge-based societies.

3. For more information please visit: [Result details \(coe.int\)](#)

4. For more information and to read the agenda, please visit: [ec_rtd_western-balkans-agenda-overview.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

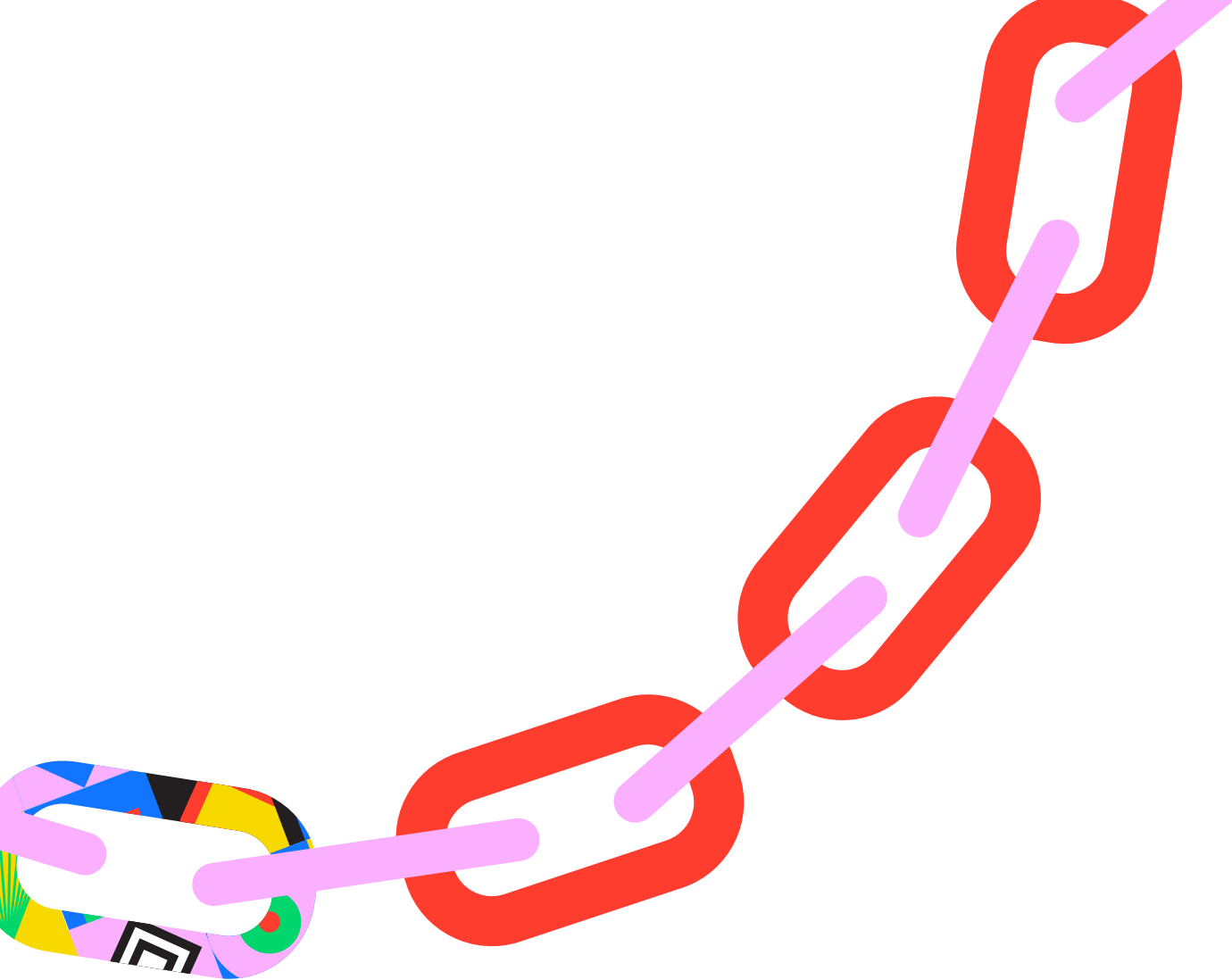
1.7 Linking the National Youth Strategy with the National Strategy for Development and Integration (2015-2020) (NSDI II)



The National Strategy on Development and Integration 2015-2020 (NSDI II) is the main strategic document which combines the integration agenda of the European Union with the sustainable economic and social development of the country, including the interconnection with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Strategy defines the vision for Albania as a “...growing democracy, on its path towards integration in the European Union with a competitive, stable and sustainable economy, ensuring fundamental human rights”.

- ▶ This strategy includes a specific paragraph, no. 11.9, related to youth empowerment in light of the following challenges:
 - ▶ The need for youth economic empowerment through employment promotion, education, health and social protection programmes;
 - ▶ The need to establish public spaces for youth;
 - ▶ The need to strengthen youth organizations' capacities;
 - ▶ The establishment of youth networks, regional councils and national consultation committees on youth matters; and
 - ▶ The need to increase active youth participation in the community, and inter-regional programmes.
- ▶ This strategy puts forward the following vision: “An active, healthy, educated youth with a consolidated status in the society enjoying equality in all fields of social life” based on *its activism and equality in all fields of life. Youth is envisioned as*

The National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 along with its accompanying strategic documents is harmonised and in complete line with the goals, the objectives and the provisions of the NSDI II according to pillars 2.



healthy, educated and with a consolidated status in society.

- ▶ This document also introduces the following strategic objectives:
- ▶ Support for and integration of youth in the labour market, both as employees and entrepreneurs⁵;
 - ▶ Promotion and enhancement of youth participation in society, decision-making and wellbeing⁶, and
 - ▶ Strengthening vocational education and training for youth at all levels and improving opportunities for lifelong learning⁷.
- ▶ Other parts of this strategy are closely related

to youth, such as pillars 2, 3 and 4 that deal with economic growth through competitiveness and innovation, investment in human capital and social cohesion, as well as the sustainable use of resources and the development of territory.

The National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 along with its accompanying strategic documents is harmonised and in complete line with the goals, the objectives and the provisions of the NSDI II according to pillars 2 (Economic growth through increased competitiveness and innovation) and pillar 3 (Investment in human capital and social cohesion).

5. This will be achieved through: 1. the establishment of the National Youth Service, as a budget structure under the Ministry responsible for implementing youth policies and aspects; 2. the establishment of regional youth centers, as direct youth services units; 3. the establishment of "Business Incubators for Youth" in order to increase youth participation through administrative spaces that provide young entrepreneurs with office space and other administrative facilities; 4. the establishment of National Youth Bodies; and 5. the collection and provision of information on youth employment promotion programmes.

6. This will be achieved through: 1. raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of youth and organizations for community programmes; 2. support provided for youth well-being, focusing on promoting mental and sexual health, physical activity and healthy living; 3. promoting youth participation in civil society organizations at all levels; and 4. creating and promoting youth internship programmes.

7. This will be achieved through: 1. certification and recognition of non-formal education, as part of lifelong learning; 2. vocational education awareness raising campaigns geared towards labour market demands; and, 3. the establishment of career development offices in upper secondary schools or higher education institutions, in order to guide young people towards the fields in demand in the labour market.

1.8 Linking the National Youth Strategy with the National Plan for European Integration (NPEI) 2022-2024

1.8.1. The National Plan for European Integration 2022-2024 stresses that: *The idea of developing the National Youth Strategy 2022 - 2029 arises not only as a necessity and not only in the framework of Law No. 75/2019 "On Youth", but also because the "National Youth Action Plan 2015 - 2020" lapsed in December 2020.* The priorities of this plan include youth and the adoption of this strategy within the third quarter of this year. More broadly, youth issues as a specific social group with special interests and needs are addressed in Chapter 26 (pg. 400), a chapter which is permeated by issues of relevance for youth, such as education and culture.

This plan also views issues related to youth from the perspective of regional cooperation and integration, and topics such as "Investing in the European Future of Youth" have been given priority in the stabilisation and association, and European Union integration processes. Pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers, No. 524, dated 22.9.2021 "Youth" is now the responsibility of the Minister of State for Youth and Children, and as a result the work for developing the National Youth Strategy has now been transferred to this ministry.

In addition to addressing cornerstone youth issues related to education quality improvement, practical opportunities to employ knowledge gained, career counseling and leisure away from vice and illicit practices, this plan intersects with the strategy in the following action areas.

- ▶ National programme for Work Internships.
- ▶ National programme of "Education for arts and crafts in pre-university education institutions".

1.8.2. In the framework of the justice sector developments, of note is the connection to the implementation of the "Juvenile Justice Strategy" and the relevant Action Plan for the 2018 - 2021 period, adopted with DCM No. 541, dated 19.09.2018. Innovations under the juvenile criminal justice

reform include the new institutions, such as the Center for the Prevention of Juvenile and Youth Crime (CPJYC) and the Multidisciplinary Juvenile Institute.

1.8.3. In regard to strategic developments in the mental health context, the NYS links with the 2013 - 2022 Action Plan for the Development of Mental Health Services in Albania.

1.8.4. In regard to issues of primary health care, the provision of socio-health services at health centers enables the provision of friendly health services for young men and women. According to the strategic document, by 2024, 10 model family medicine centers are planned to be operational, providing integrated socio-health services mainly focusing on mental health issues, but also services for children and youth, and palliative care.

1.8.5. The National Youth Strategy will have intersection points with the new document of the National Health Strategy 2022-2030.

1.8.6. In the context of **youth employment policies**, the National Youth Strategy links with the Employment and Skills Strategy 2019 - 2022 (NESS), which mainly aims at identifying and developing relevant policies for the employment and vocational training of the labour force, in order to create jobs, quality employment opportunities, and life-long-learning opportunities. The action plan focuses on improving opportunities for decent work through efficient labour market policies, provision of quality education and training for youth and adults, promoting inclusion and social cohesion, and strengthening the labour market and qualifications governance system. 40 employment offices have been organised and operate using the new employment services model under the National Agency for Employment and Skills. The strategy reviewed indicators up to 2022, based on a database and in close cooperation with INSTAT. In addition, a series of new

employment promotion programmes have been adopted, including:

- ▶ Subsidised employment (which involves unemployed jobseekers from special groups such as youth, women with children, disabled persons, Roma and Egyptian communities, etc.
- ▶ on the job training and professional internships
- ▶ public work in the community
- ▶ self-employment
- ▶ COVID-19 programmes

The National Youth Strategy is expected to be an equitable document from the gender perspective. When gender inequality is evident, with the measures this strategy provides, it strengthens the role of girls and young women. In this aspect, this strategy links with the portion of the national plan addressing gender issues in line with the National Strategy on Gender Equality (NSGE) 2021 - 2030, adopted with DCM No. 400, dated 30.06.2021. The measures and actions provided in that Strategy intersect with the measures and actions provided in the Strategy for Gender Equality 2020 - 2025 of the European Union, which aims the following regarding youth:

- ▶ Ensuring economic and social rights of women, young women and girls, young men and boys in the society, and empowering women, young women and girls from all groups (from rural areas, ethnic minorities, disabled persons, LGBTI+, the elderly, single mothers, survivors of violence/trafficking, girls who are mothers, migrants, asylum seekers, etc.), with the aim of improving environmental (green) economy sustainability and their equal participation in the digitalisation process.
- ▶ Ensuring the rights of women and men, young women and men, girls and boys from all groups (rural areas, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, LGBTI+, single mothers, women and girls survivors of violence/trafficking, young mothers, migrants and asylum seekers, etc.) to equal participation, representation and leadership in political and public decision making at the local level.
- ▶ Reducing all forms of harmful practices, gender-based violence and domestic violence.
- ▶ Gender mainstreaming as the main means of achieving gender equality in the society.

1.9 Selecting the policy for developing the National Youth Strategy

Priority measures definition methodology

Mechanisms related to youth and their priority needs have been employed in defining priority measures in this strategy. In defining the measures, the following categories have been taken into account:

Youth age. From the age perspective, the measures defined have been considered in accordance with three age groups that are also in line with the education and professional development cycles, as follows:

- ▶ 15 - 18 years of age: second level education or vocational education
- ▶ 19 - 24 years of age: higher education, further professional development, or employment
- ▶ 25 - 29 years of age: graduate studies or employment upon completion of the first cycle of higher education studies

Girls and young women. From the gender justice and equality perspective, measures have been developed taking into account specific conditions for girls and young women to better overcome the challenges of professional development and the challenges of starting family life. In any case, the measures developed are combined with gender promotion policies and serve the empowerment of girls and young women, considering also girls who have become mothers or have married at an early age, and those in vulnerable situations. From a gender perspective, the measures developed aim at increasing the participation of girls in both social and professional life.

Vulnerability. Pursuant also to international youth strategies, those young individuals that are in risk situations, or feel discriminated against or excluded because of their economic situation, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, origin, etc. have been considered in the measures provided in this strategy, as have been young individuals in contact with the law resulting from participation in illegal activities or from trafficking situations.

Number of young persons. The issue of the number of young individuals impacted by the measures provided in the strategy has also been considered with priority. Thus, the measures impacting the majority of youth have been given more priority.

Youth talent. Talented youth and promotion of talents in sports, arts and culture have been prioritised. Priority measures include strengthening the talent and skills of youth through participation in various activities.

Promotion of youth participation. Another important element in defining priority measures is the participation and engagement of the highest number of youth groups and organisations possible. Overall, the strategy aims at enhancing youth participation in the social and economic life of the country. This would be effectively accomplished through the increase of active young individuals participating in youth organisations and volunteerism.

Promotion of youth employment. Priority has also been given to measures promoting youth employment, career development and entrepreneurship development among youth, considering that the unemployment of young men and women continues to remain high, as is the number of youth not in education, training, or employment.

Brain drain prevention. Measures have also been ranked based on the effect they have on decreasing irregular migration and preventing brain drain. Measures supporting youth returning from migration and seeking to develop their entrepreneurship ideas in Albania have been given higher priority.

Promotion of innovation. Prioritising measures that stimulate innovation by supporting new ideas and start-ups, and digital developments, is related to the two factors discussed above.

The leadership role of the Ministry of State for Youth and Children. Measures directly lead or coordinated by the ministry responsible for youth and the National Youth Agency have been given higher priority compared to other measures.

Cooperation with line ministries and agencies. In addition, measures have also been prioritised based on the level of coordination and cooperation with other ministries or agencies, because other line ministries have leadership roles in a majority of other strategy measures, while coordination with the ministry responsible for youth is required for the monitoring and assessment of youth aspects in the relevant measures.

Considering the linkages analysis with other important national documents, the consultations with young men and women, and in line with the expected developments in the youth sector, the following was decided:

- ▶ *The strategy will cover the years 2022-2029, a 8-year period, to allow for youth policies to extend to all action areas and to enable significant and strategic policy interventions for youth.*
- ▶ *Considering a realistic scenario in the context of the situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic, major investments in youth, recreational and sport spaces will be undertaken over the same period with a tendency to continue beyond that timeframe.*
- ▶ The strategy is both multi- and cross- sectoral:
 - ▶ *To reach the current stage, the strategy has been fed by information gathered in meetings with youth, with the participation of the Prime Minister and the Minister of State for Youth and Children,*
 - ▶ *The new policy programme of the government has been taken into consideration, and*
 - ▶ *A process for ensuring synergy with other strategies currently being implemented and others in the final stage of development was undertaken.*
- ▶ *The strategy explains youth policies' goals and objectives.*
- ▶ *The strategy has connections in both nature and goals with European and global youth development strategies.*
- ▶ *The costs estimated in the framework of this strategy are ALL 5,570,086,793, while the youth support fund for 2022 is ALL 161,370,000, or*

0.05% of the 2022 budget and (with the current funding and modest increases) will be at ALL 1,690,960,000 during the entire period of the implementation of the strategy. This amount is 3.3 times less than the funding required for the successful implementation of the three policy goals and their relevant objectives.

In the development of this strategy, no alternative scenarios to the 8 year strategy option were considered, since the 8-year strategy option for this important category of society is not only in line with the requirements for cross-sectoral strategies, but is also deemed the most appropriate when considering the need for mid-term and sustainable interventions in this sector, and because it is in line with the budget support plans for the initiatives of this strategy.

This strategic document defines the strategy vision, policy goals, specific objectives for each goal, expected results and measures required to meet each specific objective in a comprehensive manner. The document provides the key performance indicators, for the purpose of measuring achievements, coordination methods, monitoring and reporting, and also makes projections of the overall budget of the reform.

Considering the cross-sectoral nature of youth development and the participation of a considerable number of ministries and institutions, this document has been conceptualised as an umbrella document, which will mainly include the most important objectives and results expected from its implementation. To ensure the achievement of the specific objectives, the strategic document is complemented with the action plan developed to break down in detail the measures that each institution will implement in line with each specific objective under relevant policy goals. In addition, the strategy aims at strengthening communication coordination and policies through improved performance and risk management mechanisms.

Pursuant to Decision No. 290, dated 11.4.2020 of the Council of Ministers "On establishing the state database for the Integrated Planning Information System (IPSIS)", the National Youth Strategy process started with the development of the Concept Note for this Strategy, which was broadly consulted and approved by SASPAC in the Prime Minister's Office. The Action Plan and the detailed budgets were developed according to the IPSIS system.

2. Legal and institutional framework

2.1 Constitution

Article 54 of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania stipulates special protection for young people: “Children, the young, pregnant women and new mothers have the right to special protection by the state.” The rights of young people are guaranteed in the framework of human rights and freedoms provided by this fundamental document of Albania.

2.2 Law on Youth

Law No. 75 was adopted in 2019 by the Parliament of Albania. Article 3.f of the law specifies that youth are persons from 15 to 29 years old. The law defines activities, mechanisms and authorities responsible for protecting and promoting youth rights in both Albania and the Diaspora, and it increases the participation of youth in policy-making and decision-making processes at both central and local level. The law was adopted to protect youth rights and to create conditions for their activism, participation and support. This law introduces the following important concepts:

- ▶ Non-formal education for youth in terms of activities outside the education system and based on volunteering and active participation;
- ▶ Structured dialogue among youth, their organizations, organizations working with them, and state institution representatives, by emphasizing cooperation based on active, systematic, transparent, continuous and long-term interaction.
- ▶ Safe youth spaces, but only as safe physical spaces for young people, including youth with disabilities that do not have access to digital elements or social and civic platforms of safe space for youth.

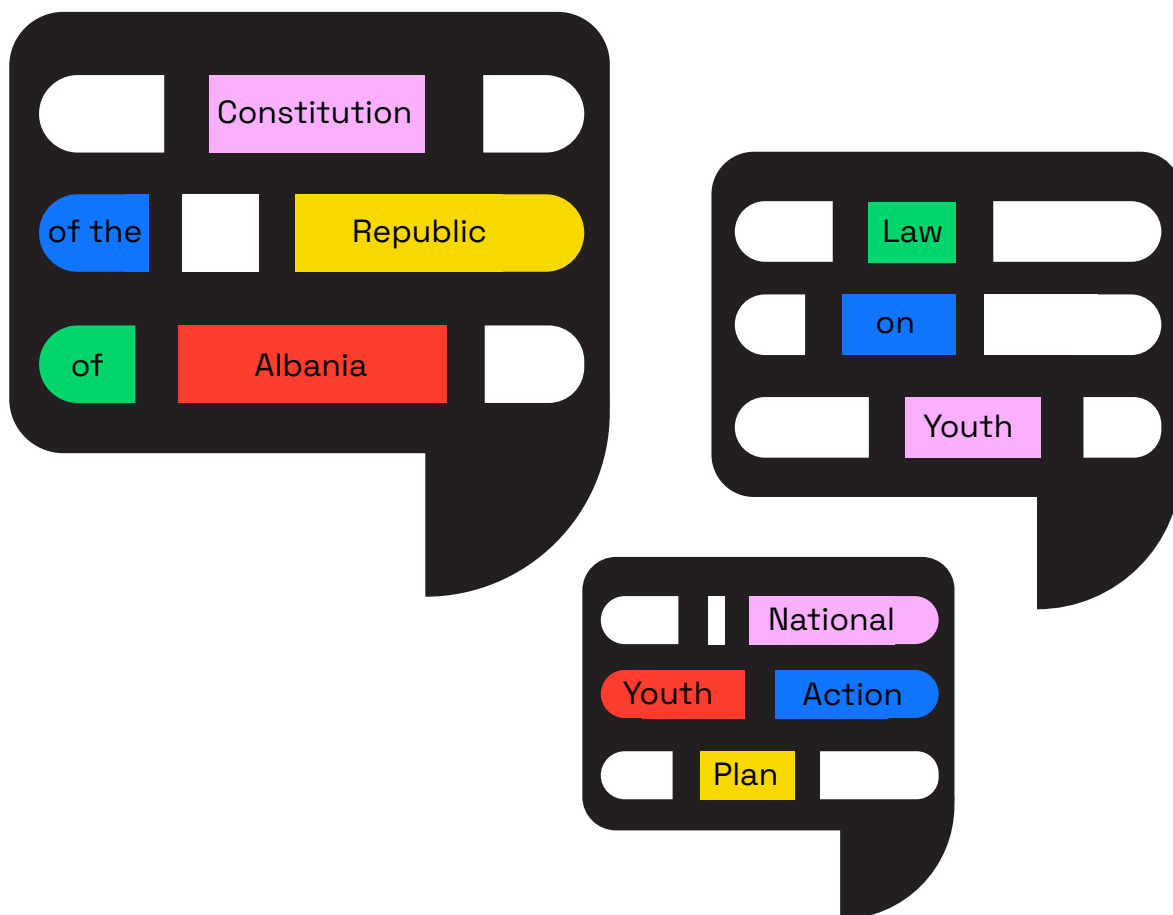
The Law defines “youth work” as “any activity of a social, cultural, educational or environmental nature, with or for

young people, in groups or individually, aimed at motivating and supporting youth, by contributing to their personal and social development, and the development of society in general”, but it does not define criteria on “youth worker or youth leader.”

The law puts forward the development of a legal framework for two youth consultation structures: The National Youth Council (NYC) and the Local Youth Council (LYC), which should be strengthened and established in municipalities where they do not exist.

The law foresees the securing of funding sources for youth policies, programmes and activities, emphasising the contribution of local budgets in this regard, in addition to the state budget. Concurrently, it provides for other legitimate sources of funding, such as revenues generated by the activities of youth organizations, donations, sponsorships, European programmes, etc. The law provides for the establishment of the following organisational structures:

- ▶ The institution responsible for youth is the National Youth Agency (NYA) established by Decision No. 681, dated 2.09.2020 of the Council of Ministers, and it replaces the National Youth Service (NYS).
- ▶ The National Youth Council, an advisory body to the Minister of State for Youth and Children, and is responsible for youth. Decision No. 969, dated 2.12.2020 of the Council of Ministers defines the criteria and procedures for the election of the National Youth Council and its organisation and operation.
- ▶ The Local Youth Council is an advisory body to the mayor of each municipality.
- ▶ The National Youth Representative Organization (NYRO), which is to be established as an NGO to represent youth in accordance with decision No. 274 dated 12.05.2021 of the Council of Ministers.



2.3 National Youth Action Plan (NYAP)

In 2015, the government adopted NYAP 2015 - 2020. The NYAP vision was in line with the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI) 2015-2020, the Government Programme for Youth, the EU National Strategy for Youth, etc. NYAP included six strategic objectives: i) Increasing youth participation in democratic decision-making processes, ii) Enhancing youth employment through effective labour market policies, iii) Health, sports and environment, iv) Youth education, v) Social protection, and vi) Culture and volunteerism. The overall objectives were divided into twenty-nine specific objectives, which had 161 measurable indicators.

Upon completion of this plan and based on the “Final assessment report of the national youth action plan

2015-20” developed by MoES with the support of UNFPA, 40% of the indicators had been fully implemented, while 16% had been partially implemented⁸. The following were noted regarding each of the six specific objectives:

- ▶ With regard to the first objective of “Increasing youth participation in democratic decision-making processes”, the assessment report stresses that strengthening of youth structures and capacities, and also representation of youth in decision making processes should continue further.
- ▶ With regard to the second objective “Enhancing youth employment through effective labour market policies”, the assessment notes the achievements regarding the improved legal framework on employment practices and

⁸ This portion of the strategy is based on chapter V “Findings and Recommendations” of the “Final Assessment Report of the National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020” published in June 2020 with the support of UNFPA and the Ministry of Education and Sport.

the higher level of youth professional qualifications, in line with the development of accreditation systems. On the other hand, more work should be done to further develop and improve enhanced employment information sources.

- ▶ With regard to the third objective “Health, sports and environment”, the report finds that improvements have been made in the policy framework for health protection and expanding health education to pre-university education institutions and curricula. Developments were also made in environmental protection awareness raising. Information dissemination and better planning and better spreading of activities throughout the entire year remains an issue for this objective as well.
- ▶ With regard to the fourth objective “Youth education”, the assessment stresses the legal framework improvements that have opened the path to reforms, but on the other hand much remains to be done for the integration of children from minorities. The digitalisation of teaching processes remains an issue, especially in regard to teaching processes during the pandemic lockdown.
- ▶ With regard to the fifth objective “Social protection”, much remains to be done in developing social care standards for all types of subjects related to drug addiction and youth with HIV/Aids services. The activities implemented in this area require more effort.
- ▶ With regard to the sixth objective “Culture and volunteerism”, the issue seems to have been related to the lack of a law regulating relations between volunteers and relevant providers in the field.

All the findings of this assessment and the challenges encountered during the implementation of this plan have been taken under consideration during the development of this strategy. The specific objectives mentioned and analysed below, along with the foreseen measures and activities, take into account the challenges encountered during the implementation of this plan, and the strategy aims at long-term solutions for these issues and for youth development overall.

2.4 Linking the NYS with sector and cross-sectoral strategies

The idea of drafting the National Youth Strategy 2022 - 2029 arose not only from the adoption⁹ of Law No. 75/2019 “On Youth”, but also from the fact that in December 2020, the “National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020” was completed. The National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 will be the document on which policies for youth participation, inclusion and support will be based on. This document will aim at developing national integrating youth policies to address various issues currently encountered by young people, related to challenges such as their involvement in decision-making processes, employment, education, technology and innovation, more activities related to arts and crafts, more sports activities, volunteerism, etc. The National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 will be in compliance with the European Youth Strategy 2019-2027.

Pursuant to Decision No. 524, dated 22.9.2021, of the Council of Ministers, “Youth” is the area of responsibility of the Minister of State for Youth and Children, which makes the same ministry responsible for developing the National Youth Strategy. Considering the transfer of competencies from the MoES to the Minister of State for Youth and Children, some changes and delays in the strategy development process occurred.

In the framework of developing the Strategy, the Minister of State for Youth and Children has organised meetings with students representing upper secondary schools, vocational education schools, students from various higher education institutions, youth organizations and representatives from central and local institutions¹⁰. These consultations took place throughout the country during the October - December 2021 period, with the purpose of involving youth in the development of this strategy. The topics discussed were of high relevance and sensitivity for youth, and touched upon:

9. Article 5, sub-paragraphs a and g of this Law define the responsibility of the ministry responsible for youth to develop and propose the legal framework, policies and activities for youth, as well as consultations with young people regarding policies.

10. National Plan for European Integration 2022 - 2024 p. 407



NATIONAL AGENDA ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD 2021-2026

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THE NATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY 2021-2026

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

THE CROSS-SECTORAL JUSTICE STRATEGY

THE ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY

THE ALBANIAN DIGITAL AGENDA 2021 - 2026

THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS 2019 - 2022

THE LAW ON VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

THE NATIONAL CULTURE STRATEGY 2019

THE NATIONAL CULTURE STRATEGY 2020 - 2023

THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON SOCIAL PROTECTION 2020 - 2025

THE NATIONAL STRATEGY ON SOCIAL PROTECTION 2021 - 2025

THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2021-2025

THE NATIONAL PLAN FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2021-2025

THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY

THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY

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- ▶ Empowering youth life in various activities and organizations;
- ▶ Increasing the quality of education and its innovative development through a focus on the development of practical and laboratory skills, entrepreneurship, linking university and vocational education with the labour market, life skills and critical thinking;
- ▶ Strengthening employment, career and professional development counselling mechanisms;
- ▶ Physical and mental well-being based on more opportunities to engage in sports and other activities, as well as opportunities for professional psychological counseling to cope with the stress caused by the pandemic situation;
- ▶ Migration and its role on youth and the country's development;
- ▶ Decent and meaningful employment in line with youth interests.

In addition, the NYS 2022-2029 is also in line and reflects the policy goals, specific objectives and measures foreseen in the strategic documents/plans of these ministries regarding specific issues in their strategies that concern youth.

- ▶ **National Agenda on the Rights of the Child 2021-2026** adopted with DCM No. 659, dated 03.11.2021 "On adopting the National Agenda on the Rights of the Child 2021-2026"
- ▶ **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, which has 17 sustainable development goals that are related to youth policies and specific plans, in at least 20 elements of these objectives.
- ▶ **The National Education Strategy 2021-2026** pays special attention to the complete development of young people both in and out of school, by creating opportunities for digital development in education and revolutionizing classes, but also by developing specific measures for after-school activities. The "Pact for University", announced by the Prime Minister in December 2018 after massive student protests, was an

other important development. This included the adoption of 11 DCMs and 4 Ministerial Orders to address 8 requests formulated and stated by students during the protest.

- ▶ Since late 2017, Albania has had a **National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation** with specific goals of engaging young people in scientific research processes and European research schemes, such as Horizon 2020.
- ▶ **The Cross-Sectoral Justice Strategy** with a specific objective for improving juvenile justice, which ensures child friendly justice, with the aim of protecting their highest interest.
- ▶ Under the **Anti-corruption Strategy** cooperation with youth organizations in monitoring anti-corruption measures and raising awareness against this phenomenon in schools is aimed.
- ▶ **The Albanian Digital Agenda 2021 - 2026**, which emphasizes developments in ICT and digital infrastructure to support digital learning and electronic communication, and to increase the quality of education.
- ▶ **The National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2019 - 2022**, which in addition to increasing the quality and supply of vocational education and training, provides a series of programmes that support and promote youth employment. The National Employment and Skills Strategy builds on the achievements and lessons learned during the 2014 - 2018 period and includes a series of measures based on four strategic priorities, which are considered to remain relevant for the coming period. It aims to establish a competitive economy and inclusive society based on "Higher skills and better jobs for all women and men". The general goal of the Strategy is to prompt quality jobs and training opportunities for all Albanian females and males during their life cycle. This goal will be achieved using coherent and coordinated policies which respond to both labour demand and offer and also avoid gaps in social inclusion.

- ▶ **The Law on Vocational Education and Training** in the Republic of Albania is being complemented with the relevant bylaws, the majority of which have been adopted, while the development and adoption of the remaining acts is ongoing. Recently, the Government has rationalised VET institutions through the establishment of the National Agency for Employment and Skills and the restructuring of the National Agency for VET and Qualifications. There is now a coherent internal processes policy cycle in the VET system for the development and retention of professional qualifications, which supports alignment of qualifications with the labour market.
 - ▶ The Ministry of Culture has developed “**the National Culture Strategy 2019 - 2025**” while Decision No. 903, dated 24.12.2019 of the Council of Ministers “On the Adoption of the National Culture Strategy 2019 - 2025” and its Action Plan, has been adopted. This is the first document of its type, aiming to establish a roadmap for the development of the culture and cultural heritage sectors with a view of creating favourable conditions for individual, social and state development.
 - ▶ **The National Strategy on Social Protection 2020 - 2023** aims at combating social and economic inequalities, foreseeing a system with the necessary policies and mechanisms to protect all excluded individuals or individuals in need by means of preventive and social reintegration programmes combined with employment schemes.
 - ▶ **The National Plan for Persons with Disabilities 2021 - 2025** aims to encourage the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Albanian society, prevent discrimination, and eliminate barriers to accessing public services and realizing their rights pursuant to the principles stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Plan includes the strategic goal to ensure and provide inclusive and quality education to all children with disabilities.
 - ▶ **The National Action Plan for the Integration of Roma and Egyptians 2021-2025** aims to remove barriers encountered by Roma and Egyptians as regards access to services and improve their living conditions through integration and encouragement of intercultural dialogue.
 - ▶ **The National Strategy for Gender Equality (NSGE) 2021-2030** is envisaged as a roadmap toward an equitable society without violence, in which: the needs of women and men are equally taken into consideration and addressed; women are respected, protected, encouraged, and supported to progress the same as men; girls and boys grow up happy and joyful through principles of equality and non-discrimination leading to a society based on sound families, supportive communities, and consolidated institutions that observe the legislation and perform their duties responsibly.
 - ▶ **The Law on Start-ups**, adopted in 2022, provides young men and women with opportunities for both training and support for their business ideas.
 - ▶ **The National Diaspora Strategy 2021 - 2025** is based on cooperation with the Ministry responsible for youth in every measure and aspect of this strategy.
 - ▶ Strategies that have a significant impact on youth also include the Social Inclusion Policy paper, the National Action Plans for Roma and Egyptian communities, the Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities, and the action plan for the LGBTI community that sees youth integrated in the envisaged measures. The public and mental health strategy also provides for specific measures addressing youth.
- In order to increase the number of dedicated youth friendly services in Albania, in line with the best European standards, the Minister of State for Youth and Children has continuously coordinated the work for the development of this strategy with the strategic framework of all the other institutions.

2.5 Institutions dealing with youth policies that are cross-sectoral in nature and include many actors in their implementation process:

- ▶ Central government
- ▶ The Minister of State for Youth and Children is an institution established by the new government in 2021, and it plays the main and fundamental role in organizing and supporting youth. The Minister is responsible for general youth policy and legal framework, monitoring the implementation of youth policies and representing the Government of Albania at the international level regarding youth issues.
- ▶ Until 2021, the Ministry of Education and Sports had a youth portfolio and was fully responsible for youth policies. A Deputy Minister dedicated to Youth was a vital part of the general youth policy framework, while the Directorate for Youth within this ministry was responsible for issues related to youth policies. This ministry continues to play an important role in youth policies, because it is responsible for two important areas in the lives of young people aged 15-29, such as education and sports.
- ▶ The Ministry of Finance and Economy is responsible for supporting entrepreneurship, VET and innovation.
- ▶ The Ministry of Justice is responsible for matters of juveniles in conflict with the law¹¹.
- ▶ The Ministry of Health and Social Protection (MoHSP) is responsible for youth health and social inclusion.
- ▶ The Ministry of Culture is responsible for arts and culture policies aimed at youth.
- ▶ State administration bodies;
- ▶ Local government bodies;
- ▶ NGOs;
- ▶ Student parliaments and other legal entities in order to improve the status of young people, their personal and social development, as well as their involvement in social issues.

2.5.1 Local Government Units

Municipalities, according to the law on youth, already have staff specialized in youth issues. Depending on the number, they also have a Social Services Directorate or Unit, which includes responsibilities for youth-related issues. At the local level, youth centers are an essential platform for youth empowerment. Regional youth centers operate in Korça, Shkodra, and Vlora. Thus far, youth centers have been mainly working as facilities for organising project events by NGOs, rather than platforms for active youth participation.

2.5.2 Youth non-profit organizations and other NGOs

Youth non-profit organizations and other NGOs working with young people are essential actors in the field, and they often fill the gaps in youth issues that are not covered by public institutions. The Law on Youth distinguishes between ‘youth organizations’ and ‘organizations for youth’. The Law on Youth defines youth organizations as “non-profit legal persons, established and registered in compliance with the legislation in force on NGOs, whose scope of activity is the representation, protection and development of youth interests in a comprehensive manner.” On the other hand, organizations for youth are “non-profit legal persons, established and registered in compliance with the applicable legislation on NGOs, whose scope of activity additionally aims at protecting and developing youth interests and that have experience in implementing impactful programs for youth.”

¹¹ Explanatory note: Pursuant to the Juvenile Criminal Justice Code, the Ministry of Justice is responsible for children in conflict with the criminal law, i.e. not every relation of children with the law is the responsibility of the MoJ, but only those of children committing criminal offenses. In this framework, the responsibility of the MoJ includes measures for promoting the reintegration of children in conflict with the criminal law and for children to play as useful a role as possible in the society, while also ensuring the rehabilitation and social reintegration of the child that has committed a criminal offence

2.6 Developing a national youth strategy linked to the EU Youth Guarantee

In the framework of **Chapter 19**, the Ministry of Finance and Economy in cooperation with the Minister of State for Youth and Children is in the process of developing a scheme for Youth Guarantee in Albania. The Youth Guarantee is a commitment made by all EU Member States to ensure that all young people under the age of 29 receive a quality offer within a four-month period of registration as unemployed jobseekers, or dropping out of formal education, for the following programmes:

- ▶ Employment;
- ▶ Continued education;
- ▶ Apprenticeship;
- ▶ Vocational training.

All EU Member States are committed to implementing the Youth Guarantee pursuant to the Council Recommendation (April 2013). The need for such a program in the EU was a result of higher youth unemployment, especially of youth belonging to the NEET¹² (Not in employment, education or training) group. This EU initiative is being rolled out to all Western Balkan countries, including Albania. Similarly to all EU Members States and Western Balkans countries, the reason for introducing such programme in Albania is NEET support, because the NEET rate for Albania in 2020 was 27.9%, from 26.6% in 2019 (INSTAT), more than double of the EU-27 average (12.6%). 36.5% of individuals in this group were classified as unemployed (INSTAT 2020). Only about 18,000 NEET youth - out of a total of over 190,000 - are registered as such at the employment offices and the need coverage should extend beyond this group, representing less than 10% of NEET youth.

Youth Guarantee in Albania will be based on an inter-institutional working group and a technical group that will develop the national youth guarantee plan, as well as appoint a national coordinator. These working groups will act in accordance with the European Union Guideline to the “Economic and Investment Plan for the Western Balkans - Guidelines for Youth Guarantees”, and they will be responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the National Youth Guarantee Plan.

The design of the Youth Guarantee scheme is foreseen by the action plan of the National Strategy for Employment and Skills 2019 -2022. This process is supported by the EU, ILO, and will include two working groups at the policy and technical level, consisting of Albanian institutions, such as the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, the Minister of State for Youth and Children, and also other institutions, such as the National Agency for Employment and Skills, the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training and Qualifications, the National Youth Agency, etc. These two working groups will also have representatives of social partners, youth organizations, local government, etc.

The inter-institutional working group is chaired by the Minister of Finance and Economy and includes representatives from the Prime Minister’s Office, line ministries, subordinate institutions, civil society and representatives of the above-mentioned youth umbrella organizations. The interinstitutional working group is responsible for providing guidance and supervising the Youth Guarantee scheme development process in Albania; it reviews the National Youth Guarantee Plan and monitors it.

12. NEET - Not in Employment, Education, or Training.

3. Vision Statement

THE NATIONAL STRATEGY
2022 - 2029 CREATES
OPPORTUNITIES AND
SUPPORTS YOUNG WOMEN
AND MEN TO BECOME
ACTIVE PARTNERS IN THE
DEVELOPMENT OF ALBANIA.

VISION OF NYS29

INCREASE AND IMPROVE
OPPORTUNITIES,
SERVICES AND
SUPPORT FOR YOUTH,
IN COOPERATION WITH
YOUNG PEOPLE IN
ALBANIA.

MISSION OF NYS29

3.1 Vision

This strategy is based on the following principles:

- ▶ Support for all youth to develop their full potential, considering their rights, their voice and their various needs, while leaving no one behind.
- ▶ Coordinated approach for the provision and coverage of youth services, based on inter-ministerial/inter-sectoral and multilateral dialogue, with special focus on rural areas, young girls and marginalised youth groups.
- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation geared towards learning lessons.
- ▶ Youth as key partners in development both at the national and local level.
- ▶ Meaningful youth participation in local and national decision-making, in youth organizations and community life.
- ▶ Development of youth policies based on statistical documents and supported by specific dedicated budgets for youth and other sectoral budget provisions.

The vision will be realised through 3 policy goals:

- ▶ **Policy Goal 1:** Youth actively participate in the society and feel empowered to speak for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms.
- ▶ **Policy goal 2:** Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market.
- ▶ **Policy Goal 3:** Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth. Youth safety, protection and inclusion across their diversity spectrum, particularly youth at risk or youth at risk of social exclusion.

3.2 Key Performance Indicators

Table 1. Key performance indicators for 2022 - 2029 NYS

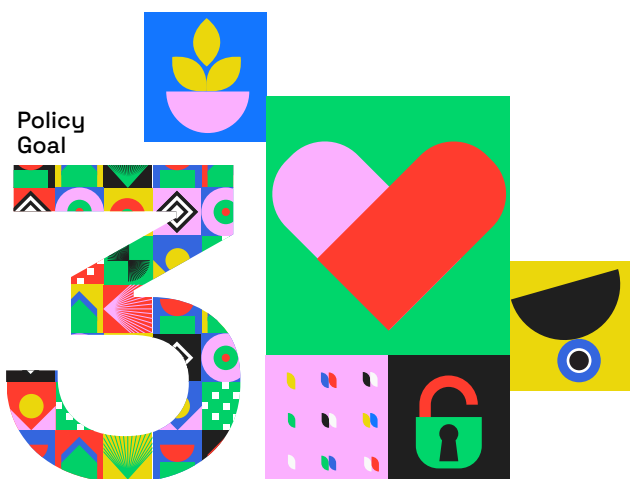
Type of Indicator	Performance Indicator	Link to the Policy Goal	Responsible institution	Baseline 2021	Target 2029
High level/ Impact	Global Youth Development Index	Linked to the three goals	Indicators at the global level/Commonwealth	0.764 Ranked 55 th out of 181	0.8 Ranked 35 th
Outcome	Youth Progress Index	Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth. Youth safety, protection and inclusion across their diversity spectrum, particularly youth at risk or youth at risk of social exclusion	European Youth Forum	68.49/100 Ranked 64 th out of 163	55/100 Ranked 50 th
Impact	% of youth reporting that they feel represented by youth policies that are implemented at the central/local level	Strengthening youth organization and increasing youth participation "Youth actively participating in society and feeling empowered to speak for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based, and have properly-funded mechanisms"	MoSYC	20%	80%
Outcome	% of the State Budget that is dedicated to youth programs	Strengthening youth organization and increasing youth participation "Youth actively participating in society and feeling empowered to speak for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms"	MoSYC, MoFE, NYA	0.05%	2.4%



Youth actively participate in the society and feel empowered to speak for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms



Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market



Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth. Youth safety, protection and inclusion across their diversity spectrum, particularly youth at risk or youth at risk of social exclusion



Specific Objective 1.1

Youth is well-informed about the opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience and volunteer, as well as about actively participating in the civic, social and political spheres



Specific Objective 1.2

Youth policy is well-coordinated, analysis-based and harmonized across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body



Specific Objective 1.3

Youth research performance and youth data inclusion in the study programs of higher education institutions and references on further developments in the area of youth



Specific Objective 2.1

Skilled and well-informed youth regarding employment opportunities and capable of making autonomous choices when joining the economically-active population



Specific Objective 2.2

Well-informed youth regarding education opportunities related to the labour market and provided with quality learning in both formal and non-formal education by contributing toward competence, skill and virtue building



Specific Objective 2.3

In any condition or situation, youth enjoy special attention in training, employment, and entrepreneurship policies



Specific Objective 3.1

Protecting, supporting and ensuring the safety of youth, particularly of those at risk, in their place of residence and in the digital space



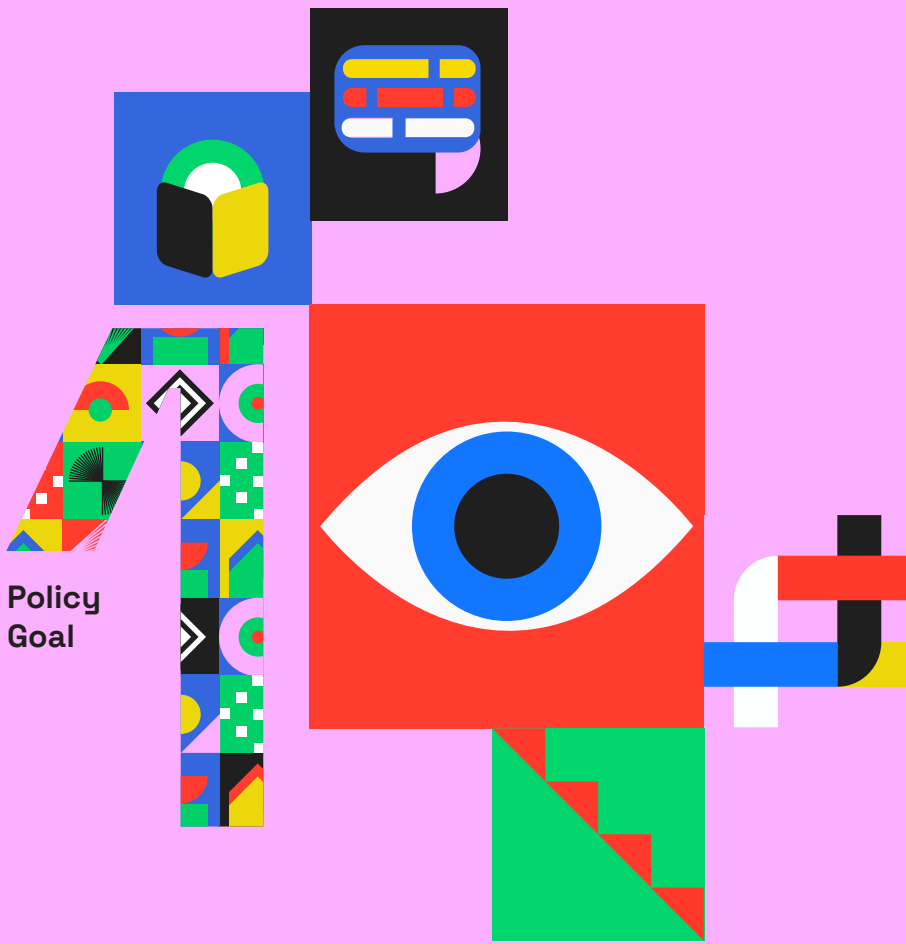
Specific Objective 3.2

Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly as regards their mental, social, physical and sexual health and well-being



Specific Objective 3.3

Youth are supported in their inclusion and integration into society by providing housing and leisure opportunities (in culture, art and sport)



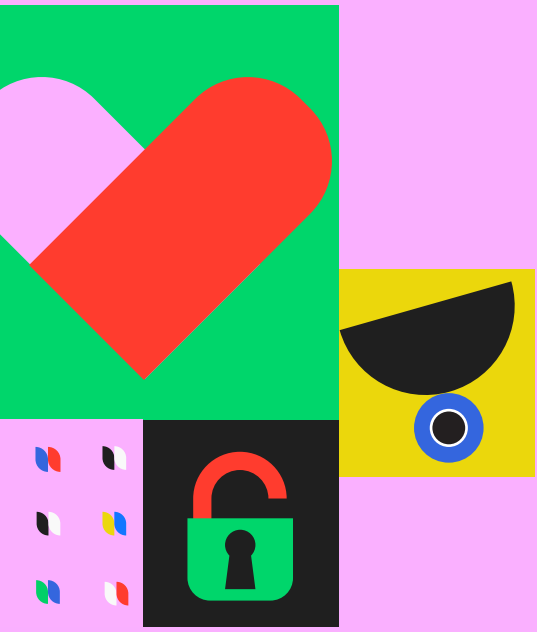
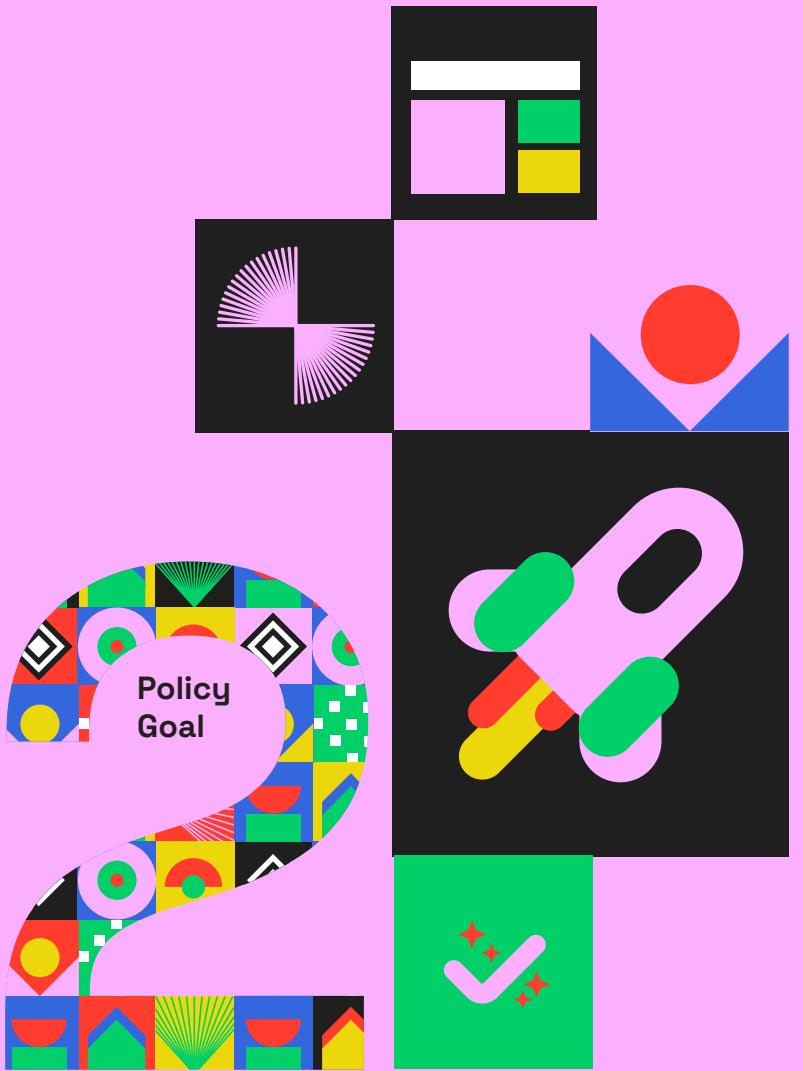
Policy
Goal

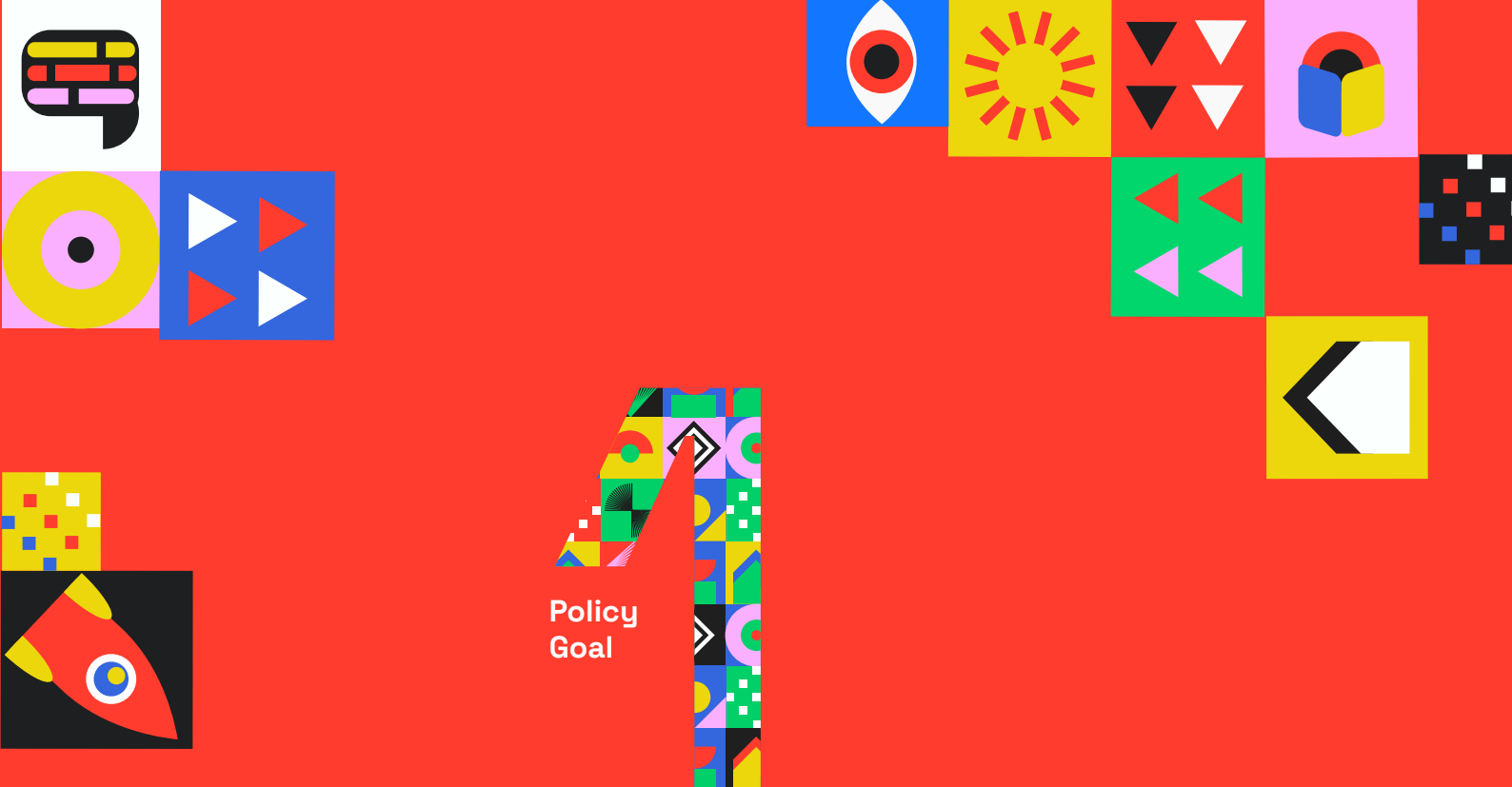
POLICY GOALS AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF 2022 - 2029 NYS

PART
2



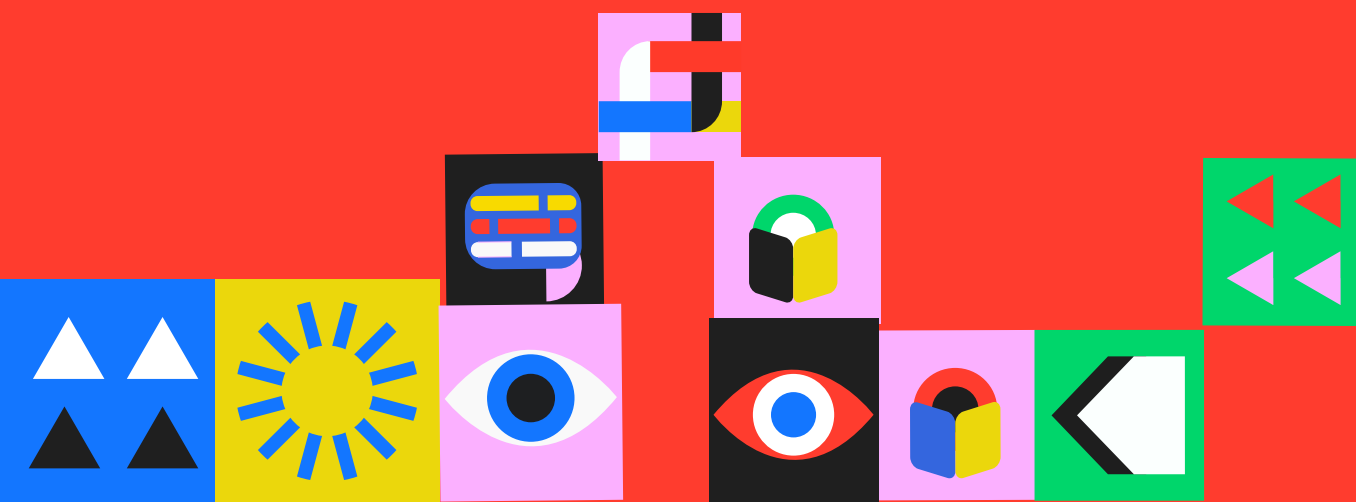
Policy
Goal

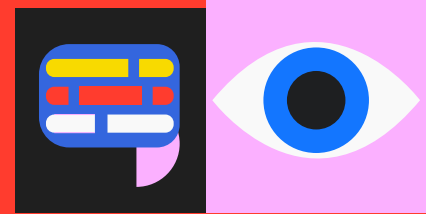
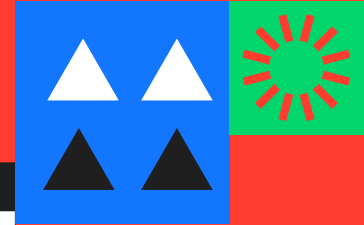




Policy
Goal

Youth take an active role in society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms.





Through youth empowerment, organization and participation, this policy aims at achieving the following three objectives:

Specific Objective 1.1

Well-informed youth about the opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience, and volunteer, as well as actively engage in the civic, social and political spheres.

Specific Objective 1.2

Ensuring youth policy is coordinated, based on analysis and harmonized across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body.

Specific Objective 1.3

Encouraging the development of youth studies and youth-related data as part of study programs in higher education institutions and as references for further developments in the field of youth.

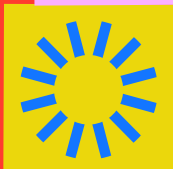
Leading institutions

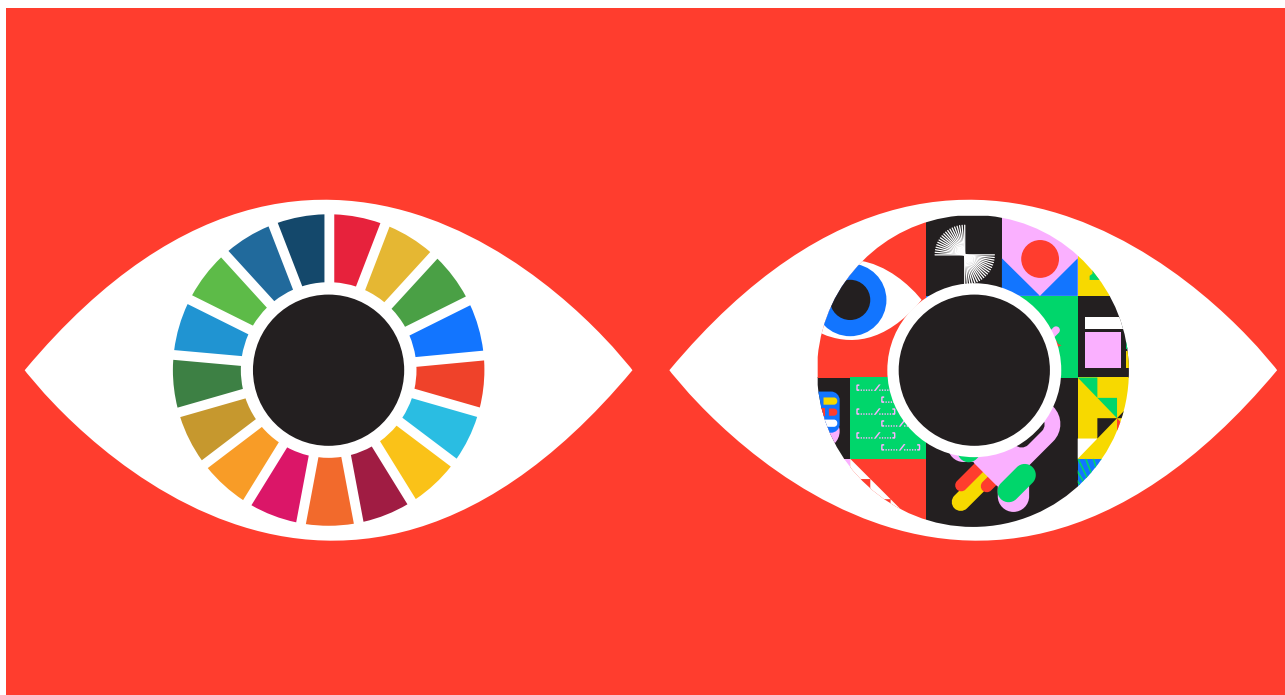
MoSYC, NYA

Contributing institutions

MoFE, MoES, INSTAT, NAICT, NAES, CEC, NAVETO, HEI

The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the specific outcomes are described in the action plan of the strategic document that will be uploaded to IPSIS.





The link between policy goal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SAA.

Policy Goal No. 1 aims at establishing and operationalizing a full support and organizational system for youth across the country, by providing youngsters with opportunities to express themselves and effectively contribute to their lives and community development. This policy goal is linked to SDGs 5, 11, 13, and 16, which promote a peaceful and inclusive society that guarantees sustainable development and intends to build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions across all levels. This policy encourages gender equality by emphasizing young girls' participation in electoral processes. On the other hand, youth awareness of volunteering aims at proliferating youth climate action.

This policy is related to the 2022 - 2024 NPEI, especially when it comes to measures that the government has foreseen for strengthening democracy and rule of law, which in the framework of this strategy, entails strengthening of youth organizations, fostering networking and easing the requirements for establishing youth organizations.

As regards the SAA, this policy is directly related to Title VII addressing Freedom, Justice and Security issues, as well as Article 78 that stipulates the development of measures for strengthening youth institutions, Article 99 in the framework of measures for cooperation among youth organizations to improve communities and enhance inclusion, as well as Article 111 in relation to measures for strengthening the National Youth Agency to implement youth policies and to encourage a friendly disposition towards youth when they interact with the administration.

The objectives of this strategy are in compliance with the NSDI in achieving the strategic objective on youth in this document, which aims at encouraging and enhancing youth participation in society and decision-making.

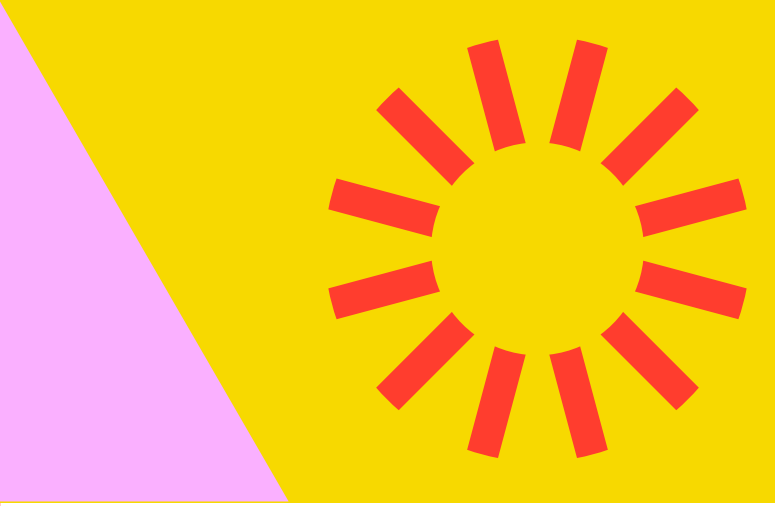
Outcomes indicators for Policy Goal 1 are presented on the following table:

Table 2: Outcome indicators for Policy Goal 1

Type of Indicator	Performance Indicator	Link to the Policy Goal	Link to the Specific Objective	Responsible institution
Outcome	% of municipalities where Multifunctional Youth Centers are established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening youth organization and increasing youth engagement ▶ Youth take an active role in the society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms 	Well-informed youth about the opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience and volunteer, as well as actively engage in the civic, social and political spheres	MoSYC/NYA
Outcome	Number/percentage of municipalities where digital youth info-points are established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening youth organization and increasing youth engagement ▶ Youth take an active role in the society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms 	Ensuring youth policy coordination, analysis-basing and harmonization across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body.	MoSYC/NYA/Municipalities
Outcome	Number of Local Councils that have been established and are operational (at the municipal level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening youth organization and increasing youth engagement ▶ Youth take an active role in the society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms 	Well-informed youth about the opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience and volunteer, as well as about actively participating in the civic, social and political spheres	MoSYC/NYA/Municipalities
Outcome	The Law on Youth was reviewed and adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening youth organization and increasing youth engagement ▶ Youth take an active role in the society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms 	Well-informed youth about the opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience and volunteer, as well as about actively participating in the civic, social and political spheres	MoSYC
Outcome	The Law on Volunteering was reviewed and adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening youth organization and increasing youth engagement ▶ Youth take an active role in the society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms 	Well-informed youth about the opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience and volunteer, as well as about actively participating in the civic, social and political spheres	MoSYC/NAES/MoFE
Outcome	The youth platform "On Youth, For Youth" is established, operationalized and updated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening youth organization and increasing youth engagement ▶ Youth take an active role in the society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms 	Ensuring youth policy coordination, analysis-basing and harmonization across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body.	MoSYC/NYA
Outcome	Youth development policies have been drafted based on analyses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Strengthening youth organization and increasing youth engagement ▶ Youth take an active role in the society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms 	Promoting youth research performance and youth data inclusion in the study programs of higher education institutions and references on further developments in the area of youth.	MoSYC/NYA

*The Policy Goal, Specific Objectives and Indicators matrix are presented on Annex 3 of the Action Plan.





Specific Objective 1.1

Well-informed youth about opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience and volunteer, as well as actively engage in the civic, social, and political spheres

► Leading institutions

MoSYC/NYA MoES

► Contributing institutions

MoFE, NAVETO, NAES, local self-governance units, CEC

Situation analysis and challenges

All consultation meetings that government representatives have held with youth in the framework of developing this strategy, have highlighted the absence of up-to-date and accurate information. Young people lack knowledge of where they can look for information to advance their development or gain professional and volunteering experience, both in terms of online digital resources and information that ought to be shared in their facilities such as schools, workplaces or places of leisure.

Pursuant to the Law on Youth, youth officers have been appointed in all municipalities, however, Local Youth Councils have yet to become effective in all municipalities. Beyond the activities happening in the capital city and other than activities organised at the school level, youth organization does not address youth issues and challenges. Youth organisation in the framework of non governmental organisations is challenging as well, due to high NGO registration fees and lack of experience of youth in this process. Even, youth organisation in schools is mostly formal and does not empower youth.

In this context, the complete review of the Law on Youth was prioritized, especially in terms of enhancing youth role in improving and developing community life, as well as making young boys and girls active in local youth policy development. The good practices of youth participation in budgetary processes and other local decisions in the municipalities of Cërrik,

Korça, Fier, Përmet, Durrës, Roskovec, Belsh, Shijak, Dimal, Kruja, and Pogradec should be replicated across the country¹³

Meetings with youth have highlighted the need for more effective communication with them through their most used communication platforms. Digital communication concepts with youth should be reviewed both for the purposes of informing them on inclusion, volunteering or employment opportunities, and establishing joint communication networks. The “rinia.al” website should be developed or redesigned to strengthen communication among youth and to unite all existing youth initiatives and platforms.

Digital communication concepts with youth should be reviewed both for the purposes of informing them on inclusion, volunteering or employment opportunities, and establishing joint communication networks.

Table 3: List of key performance indicators regarding Specific objective 11

MAIN OUTCOME INDICATORS

Type of Indicator	Performance Indicator Name	Relation to Policy Goal	Relation to Specific Objective	Responsible Institution
Outcome	% of municipalities where Multifunctional Youth Centers have been established	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Empowering youth organizations and increasing youth participation ▶ Young boys and girls take an active role in the society they live in and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Intersectoral youth policies are coordinated, based on analysis and well-funded mechanisms 	Young people are well-informed about opportunities to learn, gain organizational and volunteering experience, and to take an active role in civic, social and political life	MoSYC/NYA
Outcome	Number of established and operational Local Councils (at the municipality level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Empowering youth organizations and increasing youth participation ▶ Young boys and girls take an active role in the society they live in and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Intersectoral youth policies are coordinated, based on analysis and well-funded mechanisms 	Young people are well-informed about opportunities to learn, gain organizational and volunteering experience, and to take an active role in civic, social and political life	MoSYC / NYA / Municipality
Outcome	Law “On Youth”, is revised and adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Empowering youth organizations and increasing youth participation ▶ Young boys and girls take an active role in the society they live in and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Intersectoral youth policies are coordinated, based on analysis and well-funded mechanisms 	Young people are well-informed about opportunities to learn, gain organizational and volunteering experience, and to take an active role in civic, social and political life	MoSYC
Outcome	Law “On Volunteering”, is revised and adopted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Empowering youth organizations and increasing youth participation ▶ Young boys and girls take an active role in the society they live in and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Intersectoral youth policies are coordinated, based on analysis and well-funded mechanisms 	Young people are well-informed about opportunities to learn, gain organizational and volunteering experience, and to take an active role in civic, social and political life	MoSYC/NAES/ MoFE

13. Information based on youth participation in budgeting at the local level, provided by the Observatory for Children and Youth Rights, supported by the UN in Albania.

Digital and physical infrastructure for youth remains a challenging issue. The current small number of youth centers should be increased across the country and potentially even at the municipal level, creating suitable spaces for young people. Providing infrastructure for youth activities would promote youth activities and ensure a basis for further youth development in terms of their political awareness, self-expression and promotion of youth work development.

The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the specific outcomes are described in the action plan of the strategic document that will be uploaded to IPSIS.

Link of the specific objective with the Stabilization and Association Agreement

Specific Objective 1.1 aims at active youth participation in the socio-economic life of the country, by better informing them on the latest developments and involving them in information and participation processes in the socio-political life of the country. This objective is linked to Article 100, which relates to youth education and training issues, because it aims at capacitating youth to receive information on employment, training and education through digital information sources. Moreover, this objective is related to Article 77 of Chapter V on employment discussions for young boys and girls, as well as Article 103, which relates to the information society, because this objective aims at digitalizing information exchange processes that youth need for their professional and social development.

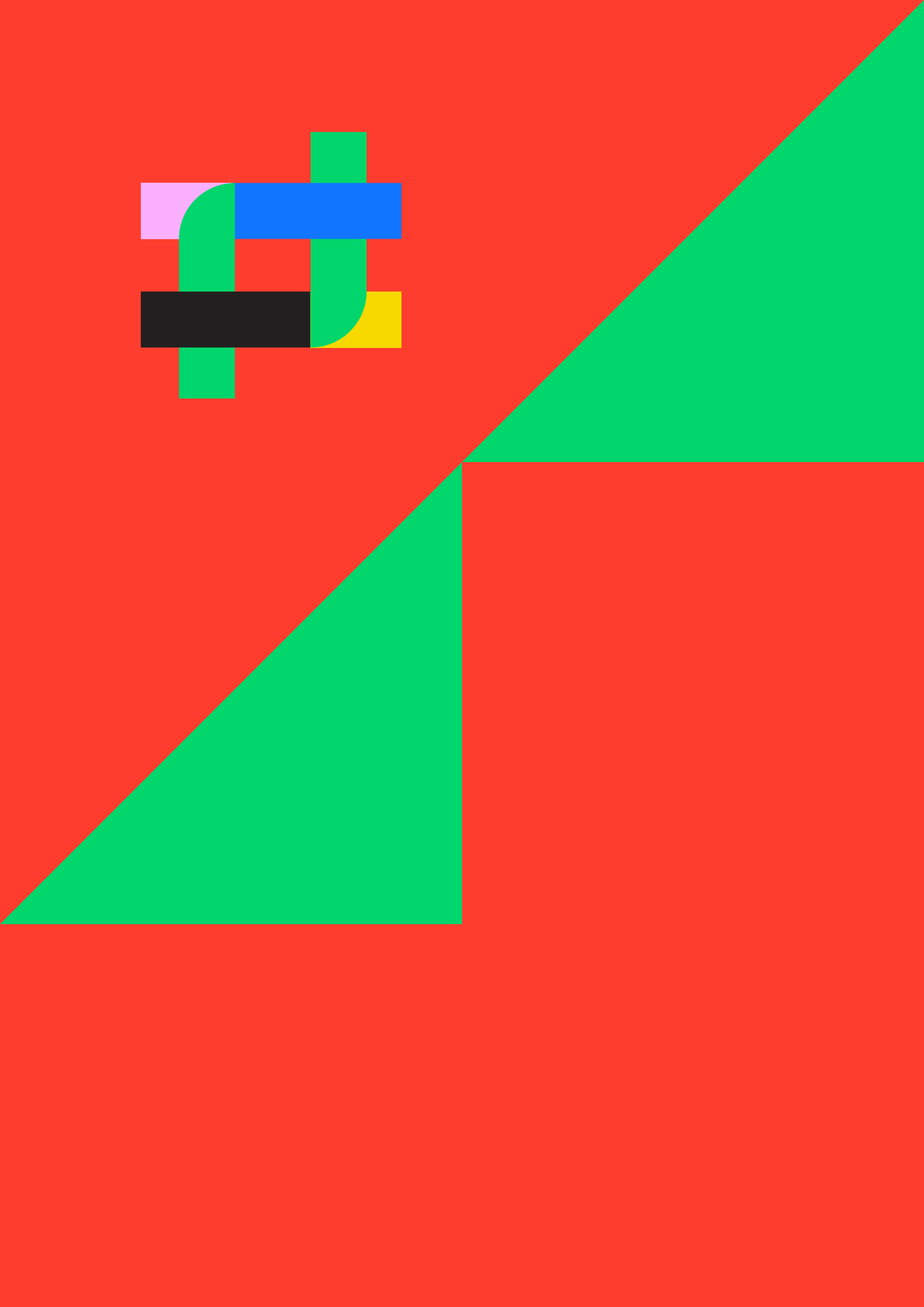
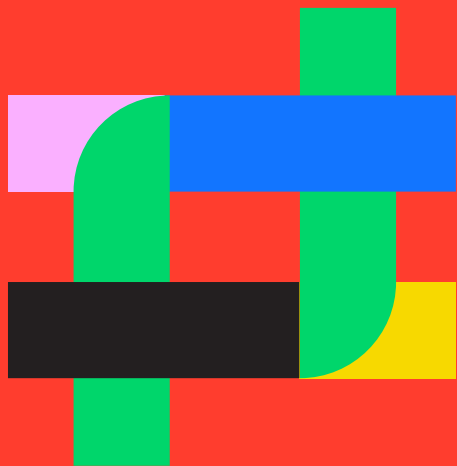
Table 4: List of measures towards the accomplishment of Specific Objective 1.1

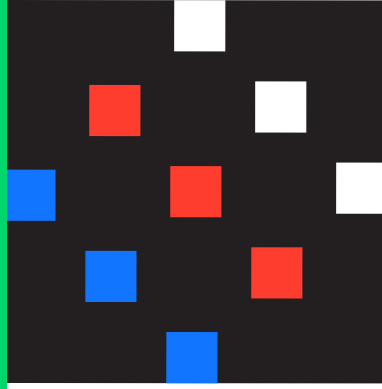
No. of measure	Measures under specific objective 1.1
11.1	The Law "On Youth" is revised to consolidate and further develop the processes of establishing youth organizations, youth representation, youth work ¹⁴ , and providing adequate and youth-friendly services.
11.2	Strengthened mechanisms (at both central and local level) to guarantee the participation and consultation of young people in decision-making.
11.3	Sharing information and guidelines via the "Youth for Youth" platform and other forms of social communication to increase the participation of young people in decision-making processes.
11.4	The NYA supports young people and/or youth organizations as well as local government units in setting up the infrastructure for youth centers and youth spaces through a grant program.
11.5	Encouraging the creation of a supportive school environment for all students and supporting participation in Student councils/Student governments and other student organizations ¹⁵ .
11.6	Raising political awareness of young people, especially among girls and young women, by supporting voter education programs and other awareness-raising initiatives.
11.7	Promoting and supporting the right of young boys and girls to equality and inclusion to self-express their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.
11.8	Revising the law "On Volunteering" to strengthen the opportunities for youth volunteering.
11.9	In accordance with the legislation and DCM on the recognition of work experience and informal and non-formal learning, competencies acquired through non-formal education and youth work are recognized based on the definitions of youth work occupations by the National Qualifications Framework and in coordination with the European Youth Work Portfolio.

Complete details of the measures are provided in the IPSIS action plan.

14. (work in youth organizations and other youth-related organizations)

15. in line with Article 36 of the Law "On Pre-University Education"





Specific Objective 1.2

Ensuring youth policy is coordinated, based on analysis and harmonized across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body

▶ Leading Institutions

MoSYC, NYA

▶ Contributing institutions

MoFE, Line Ministries

Situation analysis and Challenges

The Law “On Youth” adopted in 2019 included provisions for the establishment of an institution that would be responsible for implementing youth policies. This institution is the National Youth Agency, the activities of which are regulated both by the Law “On Youth” and a set of government decisions (DCMs). It currently implements youth policies and manages grant awarding processes for youth organizations. The NYA’s budget for 2022 is ALL 211,370,000, accounting for slightly more than 0.05% of this year’s state budget. The NYA should be strengthened in terms of both staff and funding resources to address youth development challenges and to promote the implementation of youth-centered policies.

According to the policy implementation report for the National Youth Action Plan 2015-2020, the 40% implementation rate of the plan has also been associated with the lack of human resources for youth¹⁶. Strengthening both human resources and youth organizations would also improve youth representation quality at the regional level and beyond, building on the success of “Tirana -European Youth Capital” program’s policy implementation and the government support for this program.

This is closely tied with the development of public administration capacities to address youth policies, both in line ministries and at the local level. Increasing public administration

16. For further information, please refer to Chapter 5 “Findings and Recommendation” in the “Final Evaluation Report of the National Youth Action Plan 2015 -2020”, published in June 2020 with the support of UNFPA and the Ministry of Education and Sport.

capacity to meet the needs of young people by implementing policies for them while providing friendly services remains a challenge, even though there is an initiative to have young people hold a third of the jobs in the public sector.

Although significant progress has been made to involve young people in policy-making processes, e.g. through internships or employment contracts¹⁷, gathering and providing information about employment or employment promotion programs remains an issue to be solved. This occurs at a time when the government has adopted a range of measures and policies to promote employment and innovation among young boys and girls, policies that the young people who joined consultation sessions as part of this strategy were unaware of.

Although significant progress has been made to involve young people in policy-making processes, gathering and providing information about employment or employment promotion programs remains an issue to be solved.

Table 5: List of key performance indicators regarding Specific objective 1.2.

MAIN OUTCOME INDICATORS

Type of Indicator	Performance Indicator Name	Relation to Policy Goal	Relation to Specific Objective	Responsible Institution
Outcome	Number/percentage of municipalities that have established digital youth information points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Empowering youth organizations and increasing youth participation ▶ Young boys and girls take an active role in the society they live in and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Intersectoral youth policies are coordinated, based on analysis and well-funded mechanisms 	Ensuring youth policy is coordinated, based on analysis and harmonized across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body.	MoSYC/NYA/ Municipality
Outcome	"Youth for Youth" Youth Platform is established, operational and up to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Empowering youth organizations and increasing youth participation ▶ Young boys and girls take an active role in the society they live in and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Intersectoral youth policies are coordinated, based on analysis and well-funded mechanisms 	Ensuring youth policy is coordinated, based on analysis and harmonized across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body.	MoSYC/NYA NAES

17. Since 2015, over three thousand young people have completed their internships in public administration, one thousand of whom have signed employment contracts. For more information, see: [1/3 of public administration positions are dedicated to youth employment \(dap.gov.aj\)](#)

The relevant measures and budgets to achieve the specific outcomes are described in the action plan of the strategic document that will be uploaded to the IPSIS.

Relation of the specific objective with the SAA

Specific Objective 1.2 aims to strengthen the organization of the youth administration working with young people, namely the National Youth Agency, to respond to today's rapid developments and challenges. From this perspective, this specific objective is directly related to Heading VII of the SAA, Article 78, which focuses on strengthening public institutions, and in this case, strengthening youth organization within the administration.

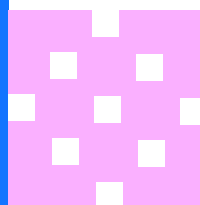
This is also related to Heading VIII of the SAA and Article 111, which focuses on strengthening public administration.

This objective, which calls for the development of youth-friendly services, is also related to SDG 16 in the context of building strong institutions, which in this case is reflected in the further strengthening of NYA implementation, administrative and managerial capacities.

Table 6: List of foreseen measures regarding Specific Objective 1.2

No. of measure	Measures under this specific objective
121	The NYA implementing, coordinating, and monitoring roles are reinforced by strengthening its financial and human resources to ensure the implementation of the sectoral youth policies provided in this strategy.
122	The NYA provides funds to increase Albania's presence in youth policy-making processes at regional, European and global levels.
123	Based on the "Youth for Youth" concept, support and information services are developed and applied for youth and young people. This portal provides an informative and service platform for young people and/or youth organizations to support their training, employment, education, well-being, development, and engagement.
124	Capacity building of policy-makers and civil servants in the field of youth and youth policy implementation based on the concept of providing young boys and girls with friendly and adequate services and strengthening regional and international collaboration in the youth policies field.





Specific Objective 1.3

Encouraging the development of youth studies and youth-related data as part of study programs in higher education institutions and as references for further developments in the field of youth

► **Leading Institutions**

MoSYC, AKR

► **Contributing institutions**

MoSPE, INSTAT

Situation analysis and Challenges

Obtaining accurate youth statistics, which provide disaggregated data for various youth-related matters at the county or municipal level aside from the national level, is still a challenge. The lack of databases for youth organizations, a requirement of the Law on Youth also contributes to data ambiguity.

During the research work for this strategy, the lack of youth studies as an academic unit in scientific research and higher education institutions, was noticed. There is a substantial amount of research on youth overall and the issues of young boys and girls, but this research is scattered not targeted to assist decision-making. The youth scientific research process is carried out by youth organizations supported by various donors. Youth studies are mainly spread across social science fields of study and do not precede policy-making processes.

The professional development of human resources working with young people is also neither regulated nor higher education institution-oriented. Data shows there is only one Executive Master's program in public higher education institutions focused on training career counselors.¹⁸

18. The Executive Master's program of the Department of Psychology at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Tirana, which is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

The associated measures and budgets to achieve the specific outcomes are described in the action plan of the strategic document that will be uploaded to the IPSIS.

Relation of the specific objective with the Stabilization and Association Agreement

The aim of Specific Objective 1.3 is to strengthen and con-

“The development of youth statistics and the possibility of analyzing them on the basis of main youth studies matters are foreseen as measures within this objective.”

Table 7: Key Performance Indicators regarding Specific Objective 1.3

MAIN OUTCOME INDICATORS

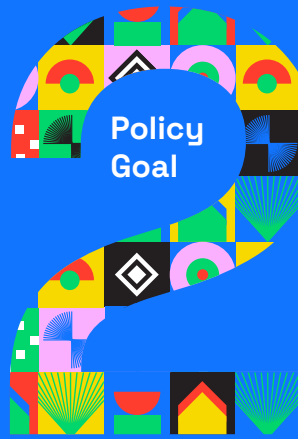
Type of indicator	Performance Indicator Name	Relation to Policy Goal	Relation to Specific Objective	Responsible Institution
Outcome	Youth development policies are designed based on analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Empowering youth organizations and increasing youth participation ▶ Young boys and girls take an active role in the society they live in and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Intersectoral youth policies are coordinated, based on analysis and well-funded mechanisms 	Encouraging the development of youth studies and youth-related aspects of study programs in higher education institutions and as references for further developments in the field of youth.	MoSYC/NYA

solidate youth-related data and studies to make informed decisions about youth development at both central and local levels. This objective is related to Heading VIII of the SAA, which addresses collaboration policies, and more specifically to Article 109, addressing collaboration matters in scientific research. Encouraging the development of “youth studies” in line with the objective measures requires the collaboration of national research and scien-

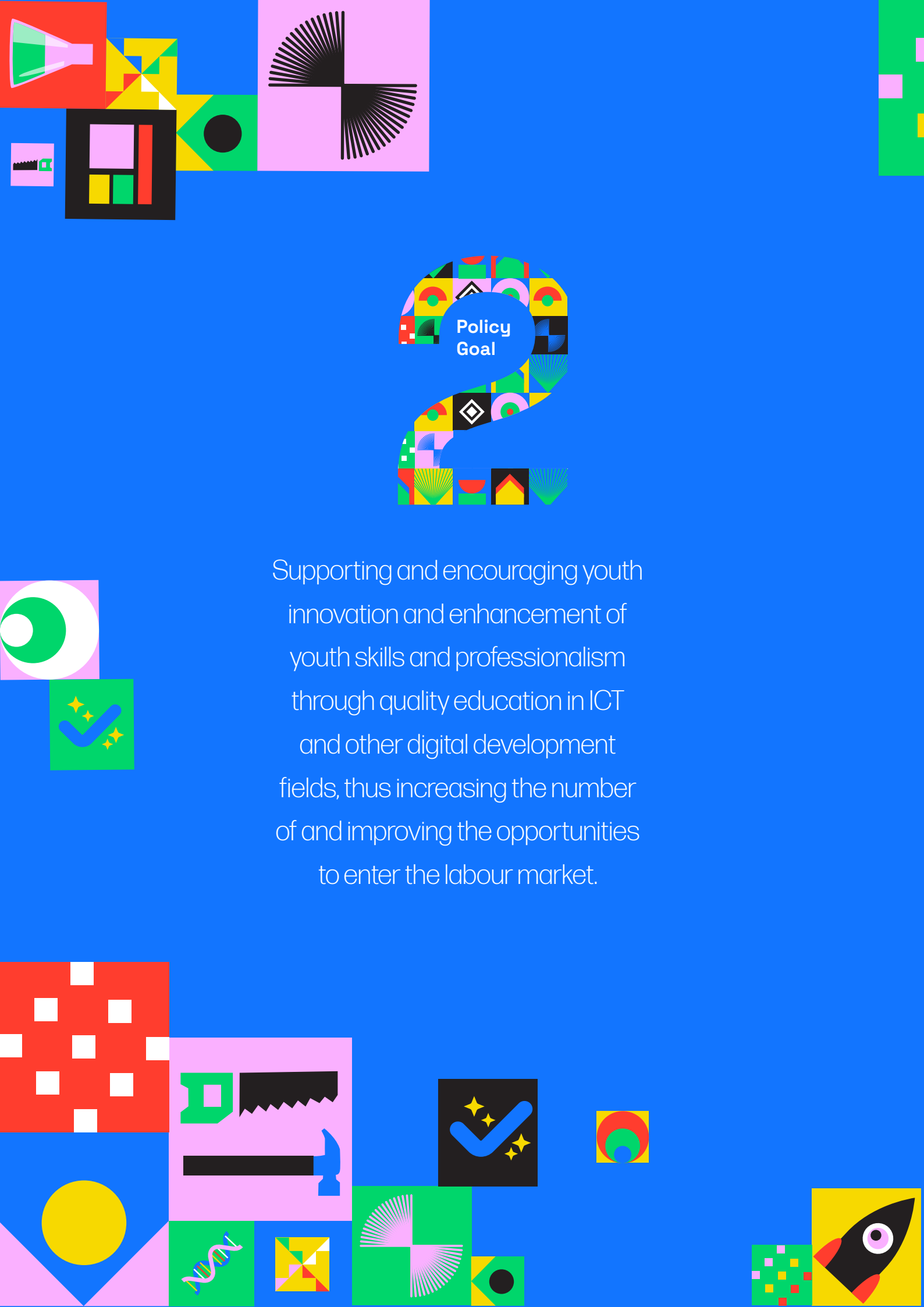
tific institutions, as well as collaboration at the European level through the Horizon and Erasmus programmes, to facilitate capacity building in this field. Furthermore, this objective is also related to Article 88 of Heading VIII of the SAA, which addresses statistical collaboration. The development of youth statistics and the possibility of analyzing them on the basis of main youth studies matters are foreseen as measures within this objective.

Table 8: List of measures for the implementation of Specific objective 1.3

No.	List of measures under specific objective
1.3.1	Strengthened youth research as an academic and scientific field leads to establishment of statistical and research databases for the Albanian youth and scientific youth research at both national and international levels is enhanced
1.3.2	Youth development policies are built on factual and documentary analysis
1.3.3	The youth organizations database is developed pursuant to the Law “On Youth” and related DCMs, also benefiting from public services digitalization processes.



Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing the number of and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market.



This policy goal seeks to advance innovation, education, autonomy, and fair equality for women and young people under the following specific objectives:

Specific Objective 2.1

Skilled and well-informed youth about employment opportunities and capable of making autonomous choices when joining the economically-active population

Specific Objective 2.2

Well-informed youth about education opportunities related to the labour market, and they are provided with quality learning in both formal and non-formal education contributing toward competence, skill and virtue building.

Specific Objective 2.3

A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood.

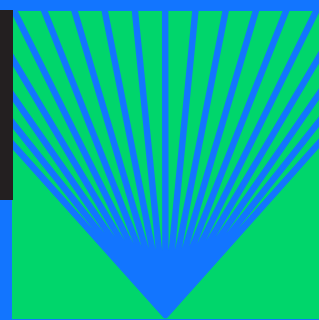
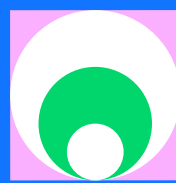
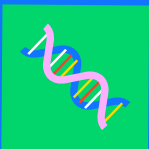
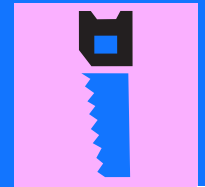
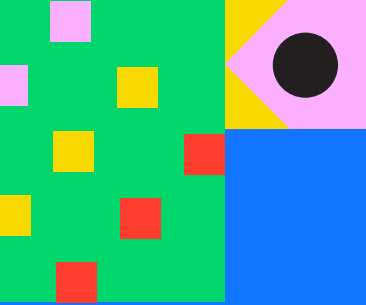
Leading Institutions

MoSYC, NAES, NYA

Contributing institutions

MoES, MoSPE, MoFE, NAIS, RASH, NECCA and NAVETO.

The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the specific objectives are detailed in the action plan uploaded on IPSIS.



The relationship between the policy goal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

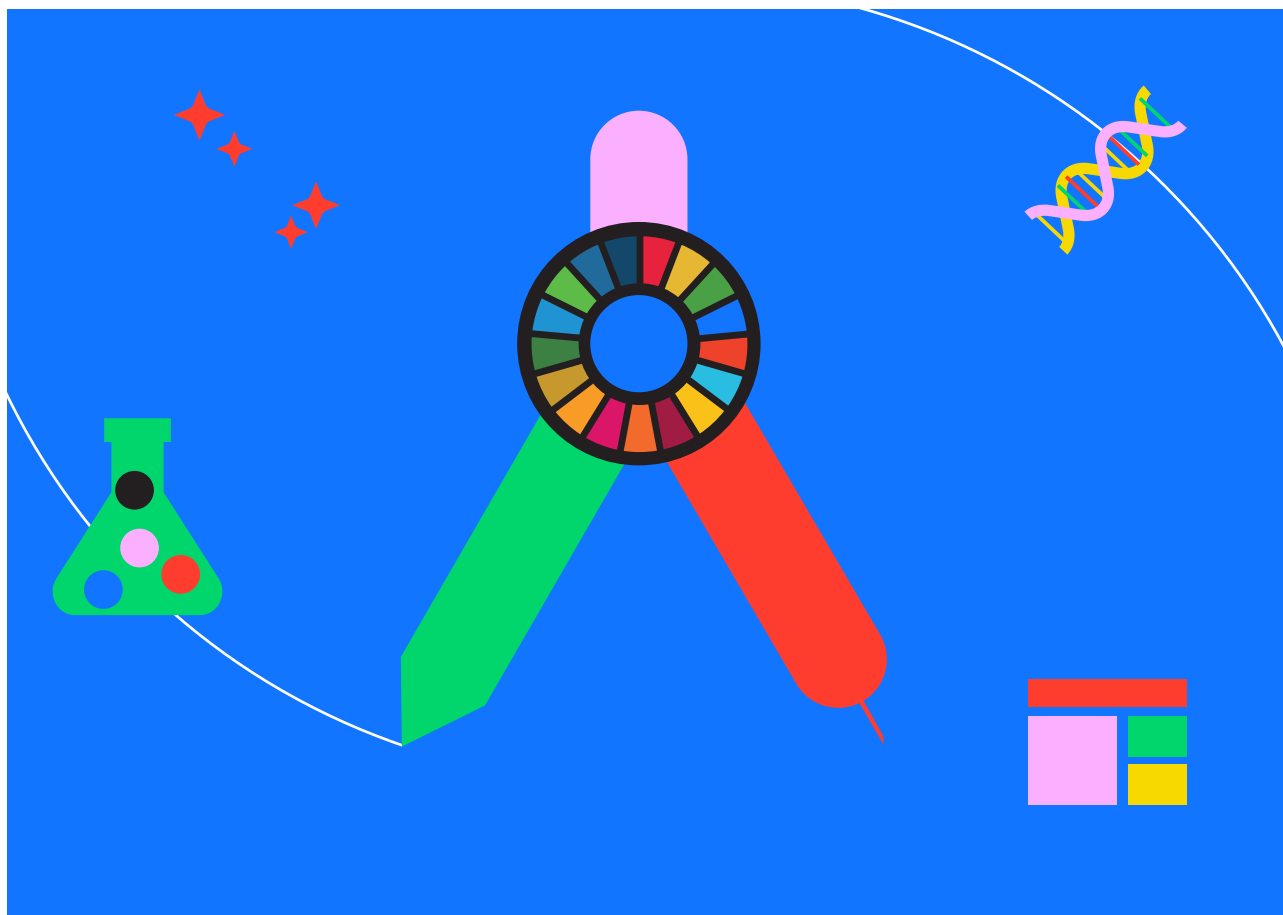
Policy Goal No. 2 is developed in terms of the conditions a country like Albania should ensure for young women and men to engage and develop using innovation and high-quality education, with the aim of enhancing their professionalism and employment quality. This policy addresses youth autonomy and provision of opportunities that go beyond equal chances to avoid inequality and

social exclusion. From this perspective, this particular objective is closely related to SDGs 4 and 8, which deal with decent employment and excellent education, respectively. The pre-pandemic and pre-earthquake figures for 2019 reveal that there is much to be done to strengthen educational quality, particularly with regard to processes for career and job counseling.

Figure 3: Data on education quality

SDG 4 - Quality Education	Source	Year	Data
4.1.1 (1) Porportion of children at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in reading Male 37.9 Female 5.8	PISA / OECD / World Bank Calculations	2018	48
4.1.1 (2) Porportion of children at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in mathematics Male 55.9 Female 59.4	PISA / OECD / World Bank Calculations	2018	58
4.2.1 (1) Completion rate of elementary education Men 94.16 Women 95.7	Albania Demographic and Heath Survey / INSTAT/ UNICEF Calculations	2018	94.92
4.2.1 (1) Completion rate of lower secondary education Male 97.93 Female 97.41	Albania Demographic and Heath Survey / INSTAT/ UNICEF Calculations	2018	97.67
4.2.1 (1) Completion rate of upper secondary education Male 76.23 Female 79.86	Albania Demographic and Heath Survey / INSTAT/ UNICEF Calculations	2018	77.95
4.2.1 (1) Porportion of children (36-59 months),who are developmentally on track in heath, learning and psychosocial well-being			Unmeasured
4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before official primary entry age) Male 91.5 Female 86.7	Ministry of Sports, Education and Youth / INSTAT	2019	89.1
4.3.1 Participation rate of youth (15-24 years old) in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months Male 47 Female 56.1	Labor Force Survey/ INSTAT	2019	51.5
4.4.1 Participation rate of youth (16-24 years old) with Information and communication technology (ICT) skills Male - 20.9 Female - 20.6	ICT Use Survey/ INSTAT	2019	41.5
4.5.1 (1) Parity indices for lower secondary education	Ministry of Sports, Education and Youth / INSTAT	2019	0.95
4.5.1 (2) Parity indices for upper secondary education	Ministry of Sports, Education and Youth / INSTAT	2019	0.94

*According to the UNICEF and INSTAT publication, "Children, Adolescents and Youth-Focused Wellbeing Indicators in Albania 2016-19," f. 19.



As shown in the table below, the lack of accurate data on employment illustrates how important the collection of reliable statistical data for every area related to youth and their development is. Plans and programmes for the Youth Guarantee and the growth and promotion

of youth employment would have a direct impact on the improvement of SDG 8 and serve as a solid foundation for decreasing migration and increasing youth domestic employment levels.

Figure 4: Data on decent work and economic growth

SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth		Source	Year	Data
8.6.1	Proportion of youth (15-24 years old) not in education, employment or training Male - 25.8 Female - 25.3	Labor Force Survey / INSTAT	2019	25.5
8.7.1 (1)	Proportion of children (5-17 years old), engaged in child labour and household activities Male - 3.6 Female - 3.0	Child Labor Survey in Albania / INSTAT / ILO	2010	3.3
8.7.1 (2)	Proportion of children (5-17 years old) engaged in child labour Male - 3.4 Female - 2.1	Child Labor Survey in Albania / INSTAT / ILO	2010	2.8

*According to the UNICEF and INSTAT publication, "Children, Adolescents and Youth-Focused Wellbeing Indicators in Albania 2016-19", f. 19

Relation of the specific objective with the Stabilization and Association Agreement

This policy goal is related to Chapter V of the SAA and Heading II and VIII thereto, respectively to the articles dealing with institutional, social and cultural cooperation, information society, and local and regional development strengthening. The second NYS policy goal is related to chapter V and article 100 - Education, article 109 - Research, and article 103 - Information Society. It is also related to articles 110 and 111 that deal with regional development and public administration.

This goal is also related to the National Plan for European Integration 2021-2023¹⁹ through the chapters on human rights, chapter 10 on the information society and media, chapter 19 on social policies, chapter 24 on justice and security, chapter 26 on issues of culture and sports, and chapter 28 on consumer protection.

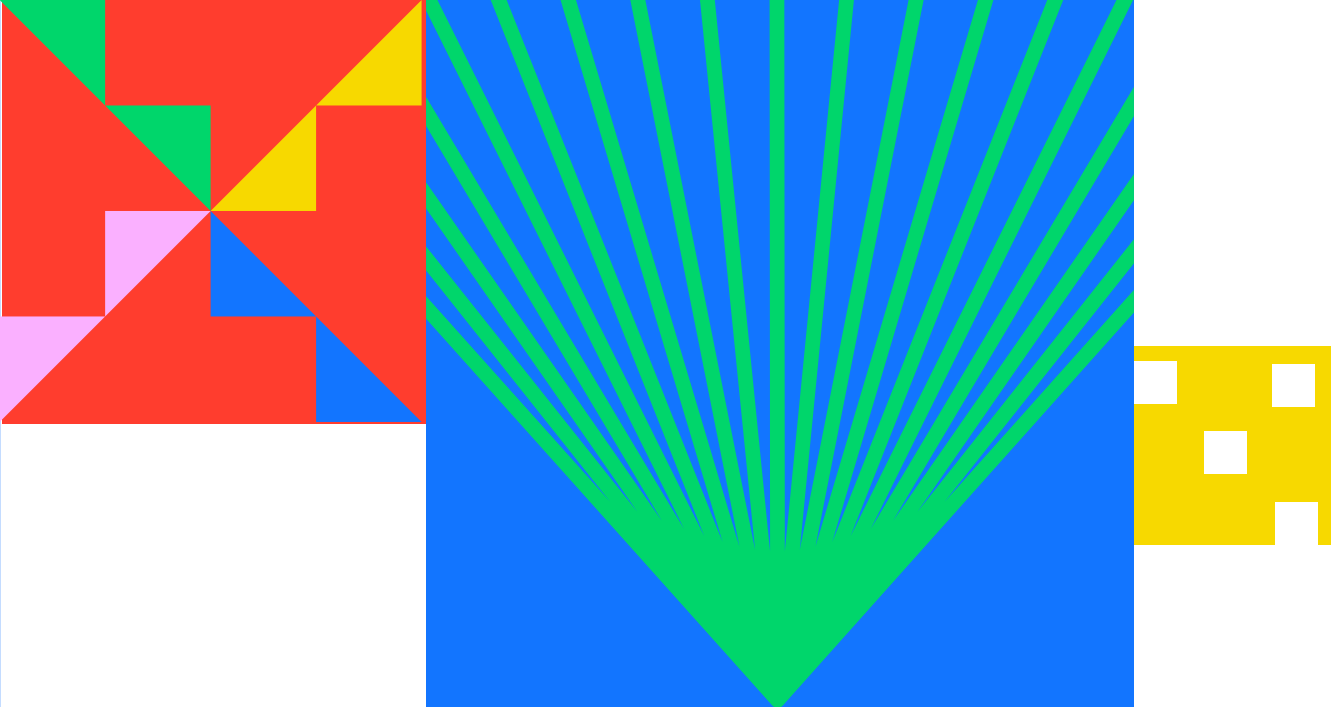


¹⁹ Approved by Council of Ministers' Decision No. 91, dated 9/2/2022, "On the adoption of the National Plan for European Integration 2022-2024."

Table 9: Outcome indicators related to Policy Goal 2

Type of Indicator	Name of Indicator	Relation to the Policy goal	Relation to the Specific Objective	Responsible institution
Outcome	Rate of youth unemployment (%) disaggregated gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovation, education, autonomy, justice as equity ▶ Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market. 	A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood	MoSYC/INSTAT/NAES/MoFE
Outcome	Rate of youth participation in the labour market, by gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovation, education, autonomy, justice as equity ▶ Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market. 	Skilled and well-informed youth regarding employment opportunities and capable of making autonomous choices when joining the economically-active population.	MoSYC/NAES/INSTAT/MoFE
Outcome	% of youth engaged in employment promotion programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovation, education, autonomy, justice as equity ▶ Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market. 	A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood	NAES/MoFE
Outcome	Number of youth participating in exchange/education mobility programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovation, education, autonomy, justice as equity ▶ Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market. 	Well-informed youth regarding education opportunities related to the labour market and provided with quality learning in both formal and non-formal education by contributing toward competence, skill and virtue building.	MoES, NASRI, NAES
Outcome	% of youth that started a business with state financial support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovation, education, autonomy, justice as equity ▶ Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market. 	A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood	MoSYC/MoFE





Specific Objective 2.1

Skilled and well-informed youth regarding employment opportunities and capable of making autonomous choices when joining the economically-active population

▶ Leading institutions

MoSYC, MoFE, NAES, NYA

▶ Contributing institutions

MoES, MoSPE

Situation analysis and Challenges

According to NPEI 2022-24 (pg. 74) the participation rate of youth aged 15-29 years old in the labour force is 53 to 54 percent, increasing slightly each year. The youth unemployment rate is around 20 to 21 percent, decreasing slightly compared to previous years. These changes are the result of policies encouraging employment and developing programmes focusing on youth employment, including elements such as:

- ▶ Subsidized employment for youth, women caring for children, minority youth, disabled youth, and youth returning from migration;
- ▶ On-the-job Training;
- ▶ Professional internship;
- ▶ Community public work
- ▶ Self-employment.

Labour market dynamics are constantly improving, reflecting the effectiveness of government policies in support of economic sustainable development and employment promotion. Research and investigations undertaken for this strategy found that the youth unemployment rate has not increased and unemployment figures have plateaued. On the other hand, the annual average of migrating youth for the 2016-2021 period is 36,813, according to INSTAT²⁰. The risk of youth leaving Albania is enhanced by the liberalisation of employment

20. http://databaza.instat.gov.al/pxweb/sq/DST/START_MM/EM_01/?x-id=547ec986-8e3d-47d1-b25e-9d9b830dd3e5. Instat data are: Emigrees for 2016-2021 are 220,878. Annual average for 2016-2021 is: 36,813. Emigrees for 2021 are: 42,048

- Further strengthening of mechanisms for job-seeking and access, investment in professional services and development of job-seeking skills within an open and enabling environment for the development of self-employment and entrepreneurial skills.
- Facilitation of access to loans and increased government support for the creation of start-up funds, paying great attention to the promotion of these schemes in each municipality for both the youth population of the municipality, and for those returning from migration.
- Further work for the spread of social enterprises based on the guidelines developed in relation to this form of social business.
- Creating supporting conditions for young women and fairer distribution of jobs in terms of gender continues to be a challenge, especially in the labour market.
- Tracking pupils and students after completing their studies should be undertaken to understand the connection with the labour market, identify NEET and understand the enrollment to graduation ratio in higher education.
- Creating training and vocational education alternatives as an opportunity for education and reskilling.

policies in Europe and its aging population, which calls for more active policies to encourage youth employment and develop the culture of seeking one’s future in his/her own country.

The recent developments undertaken by the government to encourage innovation through start-ups, service digitalization, and provision of coding classes demonstrate the seriousness of the measures taken to overcome these phenomena and the importance given to the employment of young women and men. This process should be in line with that of reforming the career counselling services in schools or vocational training institutions. At the local level, action to encourage and develop youth employment is lacking.

Based on the thoughts and ideas of youth, these services should not only be modernized and digitalized, but at the same time they should adapt to the demands of young people, better understand them and their needs, and anticipate the developments of labor market. . Such improvements and the support requested by youth

Table 10: List of key performance indicators related to specific objective 2.1

MAIN OUTCOME INDICATORS

Type of Indicator	Name of Indicator	Relation to the Policy goal	Relation to the Specific Objective	Responsible institution
Outcome	Rate of youth participation in the labour market, by gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Innovation, education, autonomy, justice as equity Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market. 	Skilled and well-informed youth regarding employment opportunities and capable of making autonomous choices when joining the economically-active population.	MoSYC/NAES/INSTAT/MoFE

to increase their mobility rate within the country and regionally, would bring changes in how youth decide about their future and becoming active in the labour market.

The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the specific objectives are detailed in the action plan uploaded on IPSIS.

Relation of the specific objective with the Stabilization and Association Agreement

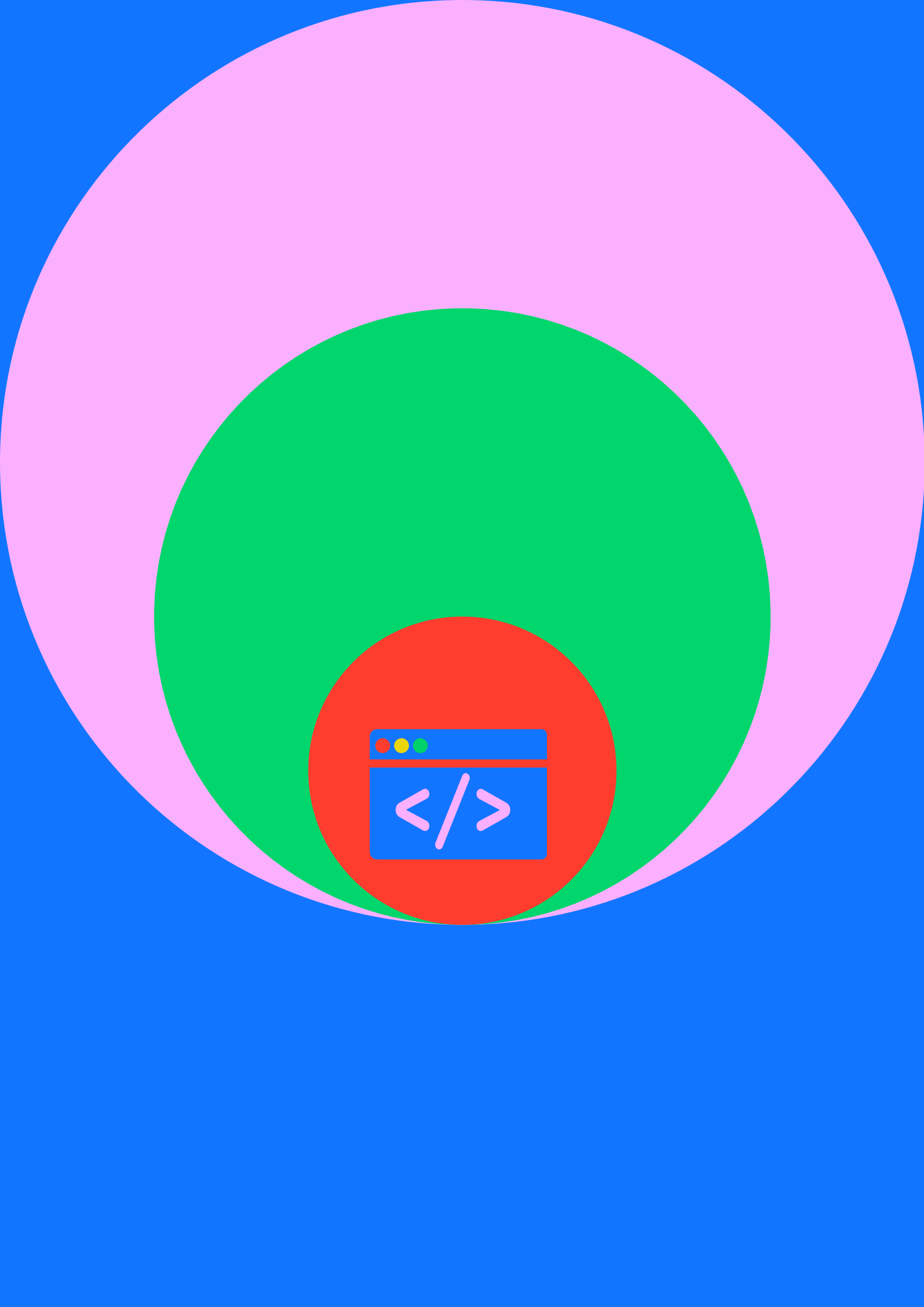
Specific Objective 2.1 aims at encouraging and increasing youth employment and development and improvement of programmes related to career counseling. As a consequence, this objective is closely related to SDG 8 (decent work) and SDG 4 (quality education).

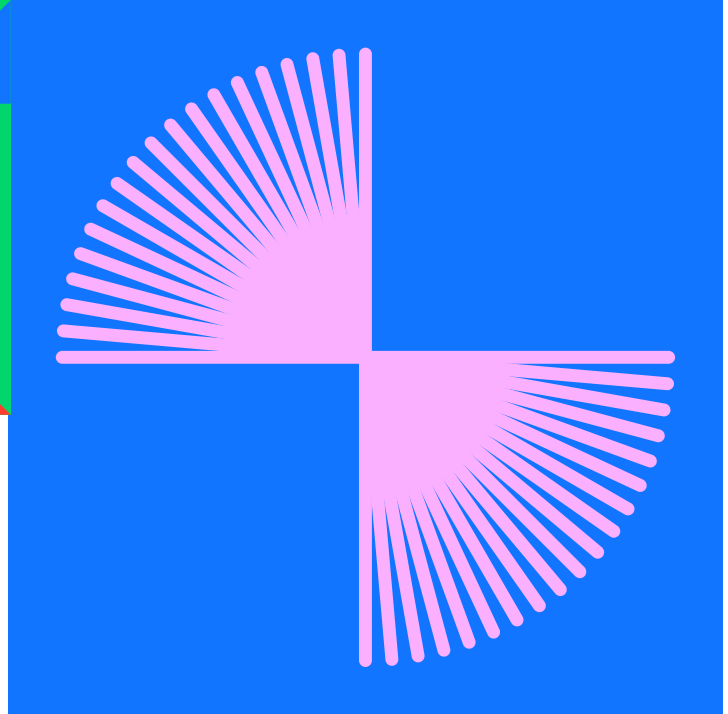
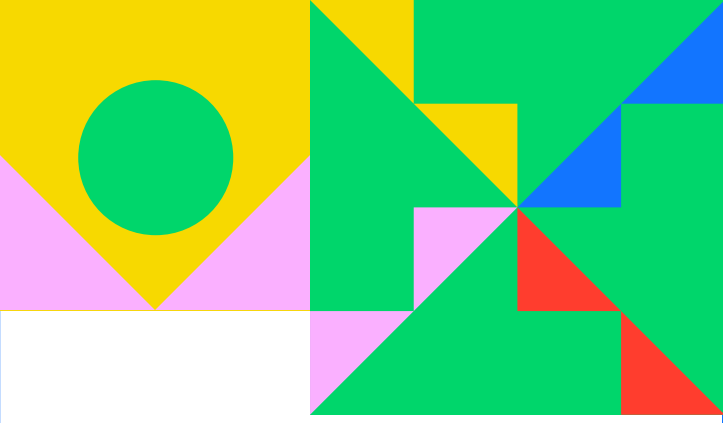
This objective is related to Chapter V of SAA, article 77, that addresses labour conditions and equal opportunities, and to heading VIII of SAA and its article 100.

The recent developments undertaken by the government to encourage innovation through start-ups, service digitalization, and provision of coding classes demonstrate the seriousness of the measures taken to overcome these phenomena and the importance given to the employment of young women and men.

Table 11: List of measures for achieving specific objective 2.1

No.	Measures under specific objective 2.1
2.1.1	Align the National Employment and Skills Policy with the measures proposed under the National Youth Strategy, increasing the youth employability level and entrepreneurship through the engagement and interaction of local youth councils, enterprises and start-ups.
2.1.2	Encourage and enhance youth employment in ICT and digitalization through coding, ICT and digitalization learning programs based on market studies and employment development in this area, in Albania and beyond.
2.1.3	Deliver innovative and digital youth-friendly employment counseling and career orientation services at educational and training institutions, ensuring fair and equitable opportunities to achieve full youth potential.
2.1.4	Promote and strengthen innovation through youth enterprises and entrepreneurship by making youth innovation the focus of the legal framework and public policies on Start-Ups, employment policies and supporting initiatives such as co-working spaces.
2.1.5	Improve programs and services providing support for youth mobility, and their collaboration nationally and beyond.
2.1.6	Facilitate interurban public transport for youth, increasing their mobility in the counties.





Specific Objective 2.2

Well-informed youth regarding education opportunities related to the labour market and provided with quality learning in both formal and non-formal education, contributing to competence, skills and virtue building

► Leading institutions

MoSYC, MoES, NYA

► Contributing institutions

MoFE, NAES, NAIS, RASH, NAECCS

Situation analysis and challenges

The concept of employment in Albania is strongly connected with the field of study a young woman or man chooses in higher education institutions (HEIs) and with the likelihood of being employed in the public administration, thus seeking a safe entry into the labour market. In Albania, a career is still inextricably tied to completing higher education and obtaining a secure job, despite the increase in number of youth entrepreneurs and start-ups as well as youth enrolled in vocational education.

Many young people consider employment in a field unrelated to their university studies as an issue rather than a new opportunity. Even though government decisions enabling the recognition of such experiences, which help young people to be employed outside of their field of study, have already been implemented, the culture of finding a job based on the knowledge obtained in an informal and non-formal way has not gained adequate traction.

Development of the vocational mediation or career service both in employment offices and the education system is another challenge requiring an immediate solution, which would satisfy the main youth request in consultation meetings at every level.

Lastly, ensuring and encouraging employment in country and engaging youth in sustainable employment requires more determinate government policies to effectively address the phenomenon of

youth leaving the country. This strategy aims to change the perceptions related to domestic employment.

There is still much work to be done to comprehend and research the changes in vocational education and the connections created between particular institutions and the labourmarket. A deeper understanding of the data disaggregated by region or municipality would ensure a better distribution of the study programs, aligning them tightly with the labour market and designing study programmes about process digitalization and automatization.

Disaggregating statistical information would enable youth understanding of extracurricular activities and their virtual life, thus creating the potential to actualize plans for the digitalization of educational processes. The main challenge of this process remains the provision of sustainable and safe internet services in schools and other youth facilities.

The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the specific objectives are detailed in the action plan uploaded on IPSIS.

Table 12: List of key performance indicators related to specific objective 2.2

MAIN OUTCOME INDICATORS

Type of Indicator	Name of Indicator	Relation to the Policy goal	Relation to the Specific Objective	Responsible institution
Outcome	Number of young people participating in exchange/ education mobility programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovation, education, autonomy, justice as equity ▶ Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market. 	Well-informed youth regarding education opportunities related to labour market and provided with quality learning in both formal and non-formal education by contributing toward competence, skills and virtue building.	MoES, NASRI, NAES

Relation of the specific objective with the Stabilization and Association Agreement

Specific Objective 2.2 aims to strengthen the information received by youth regarding the labour market and about their best potential choice of education, which will help their employment.

This objective is related to Chapter V of SAA, article 77, that specifies labour conditions and equal opportunities and to heading VIII of SAA and its article 100 regarding education and quality training.

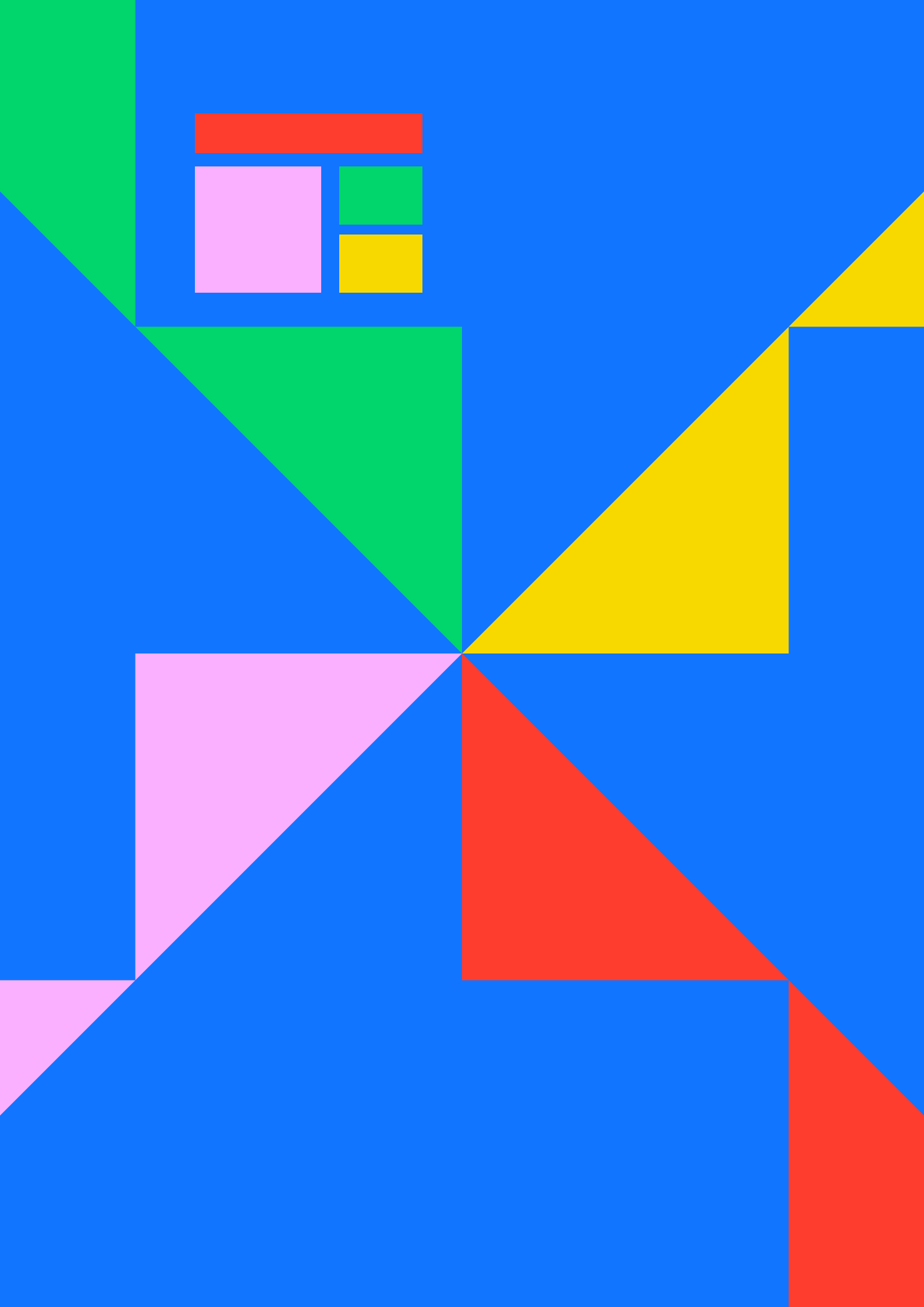
This objective relates also to National Plan for European Integration 2021-2023²¹, to chapter 2 for free movement of laborers, chapter 19 for social employment policies and chapter 26 for culture and education.

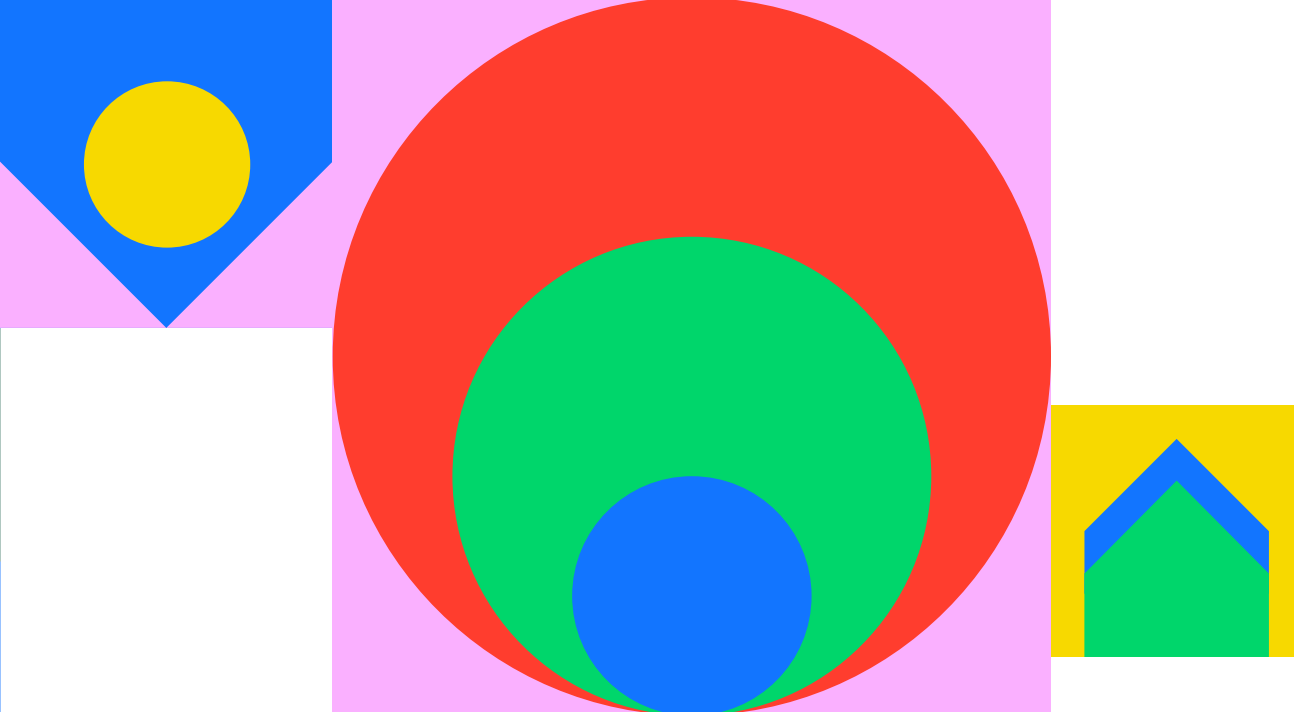
This specific objective relates to SDG 8 (decent work) and SDG 4 (quality education), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and 17 (partnerships for the goals) as well.

Table 13: List of measures for achieving specific objective 2.2

No. of measure	Measures under specific objective 2.2
221	Support youth during critical development periods, such as transitioning into upper secondary education and then from school to the labour market or to university level studies, with counseling and information which relates education field selection to labour market opportunities, in alignment with the measures stipulated under the 2021-26 National Education Strategy and the National Strategy of Employment and Skills.
222	Promote the safe use of new technologies and support the acquisition of 21 st century digital skills and competences for youth in both the general and vocational education system, as well as in the formal and non-formal training system.
223	Support and implement amateur sports, arts, arts and crafts programmes and other extracurricular activities aimed at developing skills for a healthy lifestyle, focused at helping young girls in particular.

21. Approved by Council of Ministers' Decision No. 91, dated 9.2.2022, "On the adoption of the National Plan for European Integration 2022-2024."





Specific Objective 2.3

A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood

▶ Leading institutions

MoSY, MoFE, MoES

▶ Contributing institutions

MoSPE, NYA, NAES, NAVETO

Situation analysis and challenges

The fact is that most young people are employed in low-skill sectors like the services and garment industry. The current challenge in employment is increasing the rate of sustainable, long-term employment with standards, or “decent employment,” as the UN refers to it in SDG 8.

Another critical challenge is increasing the implementation level of adopted legislation regarding employment promotion according to the government programmes and decisions and in accordance with the Strategy for Employment and Skills, in cities other than Tirana. Not only was there a lack of understanding about these programs by youth participating in the meetings for the development of this strategy, but they also lacked information on funding options and hiring practices. Improved decision-making transparency and increasing youth engagement would make these initiatives more efficient.

Finding ways and opportunities to challenge bureaucracy by reducing the steps young people must go through to benefit from these programs, making youth services more youth oriented and friendly, is necessary within the framework of programmes like the Youth Guarantee that will be supported by the EU.

- ▶ Reducing youth unemployment, since unemployment is one of the main causes of social exclusion.
- ▶ Improving the education level to lower unemployment and discrimination on the basis of lack of education.

The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the specific objectives are detailed in the action plan uploaded on IPSIS.

Finding ways and opportunities to challenge bureaucracy by reducing the steps young people must go through to benefit from these programs making youth services more youth oriented and friendly.

Table 14: Key Performance Indicators related to Specific Objective 2.3

MAIN OUTCOME INDICATORS

Type of Indicat	Name of Indicator	Relation to the Purpose of the Policy	Relation to the Specific Objective	Responsible institution
Outcome	Rate of youth unemployment (%) disaggregated by gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovation, Education, Autonomy, Equity ▶ Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving opportunities to enter the labour market. 	A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood.	MoSYC/INSTAT/NAES/MoFE
Outcome	% of youth engaged in employment promotion programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovation, Education, Autonomy, Equity ▶ Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving opportunities to enter the labour market. 	A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood.	NAES/MoFE
Outcome	% of youth that started a business with state financial support.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Innovation, Education, Autonomy, Equity ▶ Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving opportunities to enter the labour market. 	A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood.	MoSYC/MoFE

*Full list of measures based on action plan.

Relation of specific objective to relevant EU sub-chapter according to the SAA and SDGs

Specific Objective 2.2 seeks to empower youth integration into society through effective school-to-work transitions and increased autonomy through employment.

This objective is related to Chapter V of the SAA, article 77, that specifies labour conditions and equal opportunities and to heading VIII of the SAA and its article 100 regarding education and quality training.

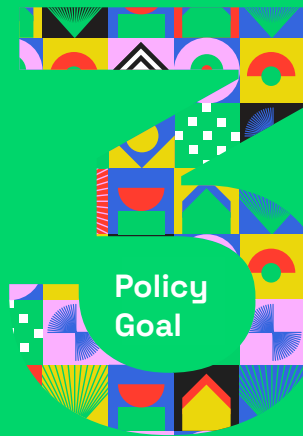
This objective relates also to the National Plan for European Integration 2021-2023²², to chapter 2 for free movement of workers, chapter 19 for employment social policies and chapter 26 for culture and education.

This specific objective relates to SDG 8 (decent work) and SDG 4 (quality education), and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and 17 (partnerships for the goals) as well.

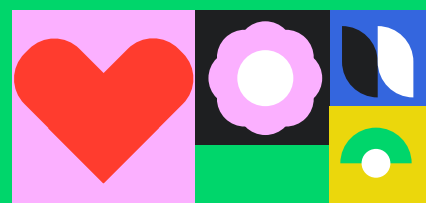
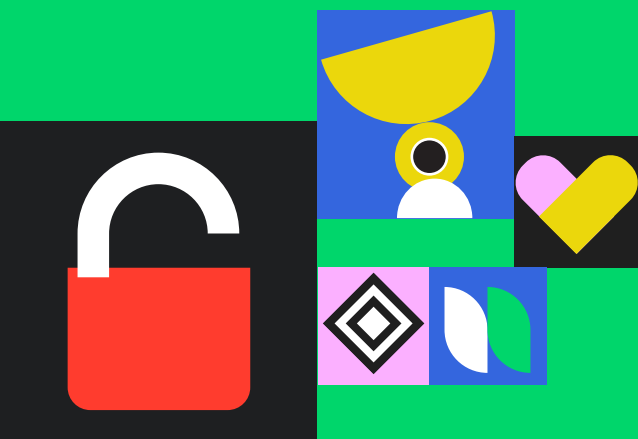
Table 15: List of measures for achieving specific objective 2.3

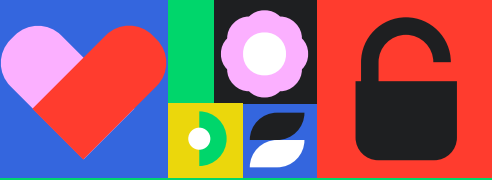
No. of measure	Measures under specific objective 2.3
2.31	Promote decent and suitable work for youth through employment policies that are youth-friendly and youth-oriented; contributing toward the creation of job positions for youth and ensuring innovative and digital approaches to information on employment rights and responsibilities.
2.32	Provide suitable and youth-friendly support to youth, particularly to youth with disabilities, about youth employment and entrepreneurship.
2.33	Encourage and promote innovation in the labour market for part-time employment oriented mainly towards young women.
2.34	Enhance integrated approaches to support youth at risk of dropping out of school and youth without education support, in line with the National Education Strategy.

²² Approved by Council of Ministers' Decision No. 91, dated 9.2.2022, "On the adoption of the National Plan for European Integration 2022-2024."



Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth. Youth safety, protection and inclusion across their diversity spectrum, particularly youth at risk or youth at risk of social exclusion.





The aim is to accomplish the following objectives:

Specific Objective 3.1

Protecting, supporting and ensuring the safety of youth, particularly of those at risk, in their place of residence and in the digital space.

Specific Objective 3.2

Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly as regards their mental, social, physical and sexual health and well-being.

Specific Objective 3.3

Youth are supported with their inclusion and integration in society, and provided with housing and leisure opportunities (in culture, art and sport).

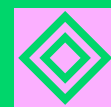
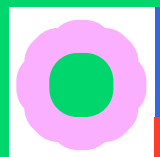
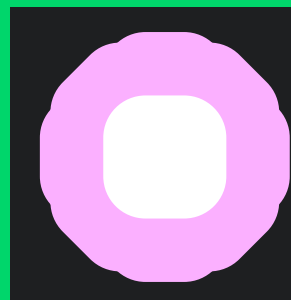
Leading institutions

MoSYC, NAES, NYA

Contributing institutions

NAIS, NECCA, AMA, the Child Right Protection Agency, the General Directorate of State's Police, Municipalities, PHI, ASLSG, MoIA, MoJ, MoE and ASCAP

The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the special objectives are detailed in the action plan uploaded on IPSIS.



The link between policy goal and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SAA

The goal of Policy 3 is related to SDG 16 in the framework of strengthening of justice institutions and human rights support, SDG 3 in the framework of supporting youth wellbeing and good health, SDG 5 in the framework of support with social inclusion, SDG 11 in the framework of governmental programs supporting young couples housing and SDG 10 aimed at reducing inequalities and supporting activities which minimize social avoidance. This policy goal relates to Chapter V of the SAA and

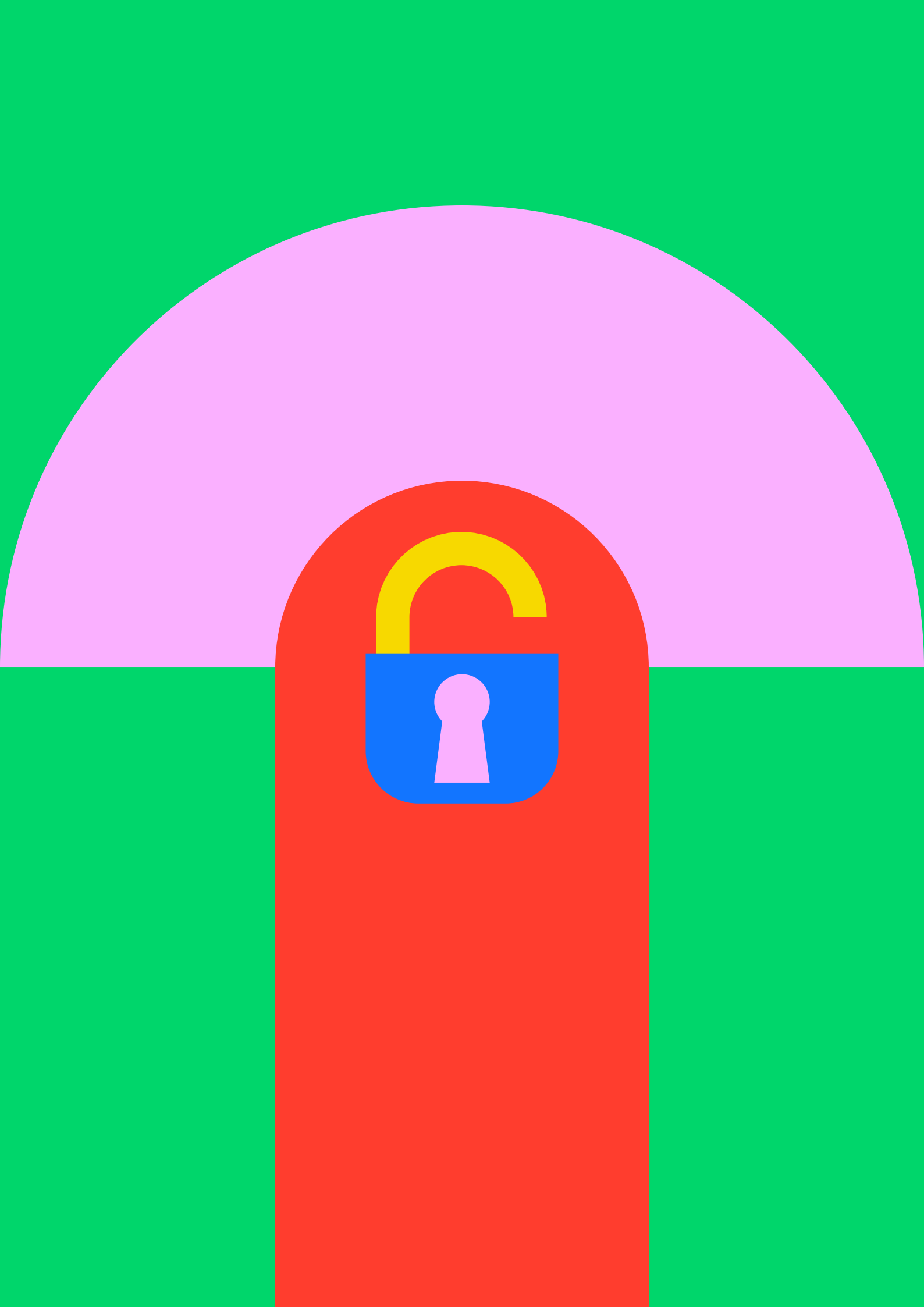
headings VII and VIII respectively under articles related to the empowerment of institutions, social and cultural cooperation, information society and regional and local development. This goal is also related to the National Plan for European Integration 2021-2023²³ through chapters on human rights, chapter 10 on the information society and media, chapter 19 on social policies, chapter 24 on justice and security, chapter 26 on issues of culture and sports, and chapter 28 on consumer protection.

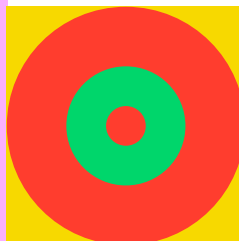
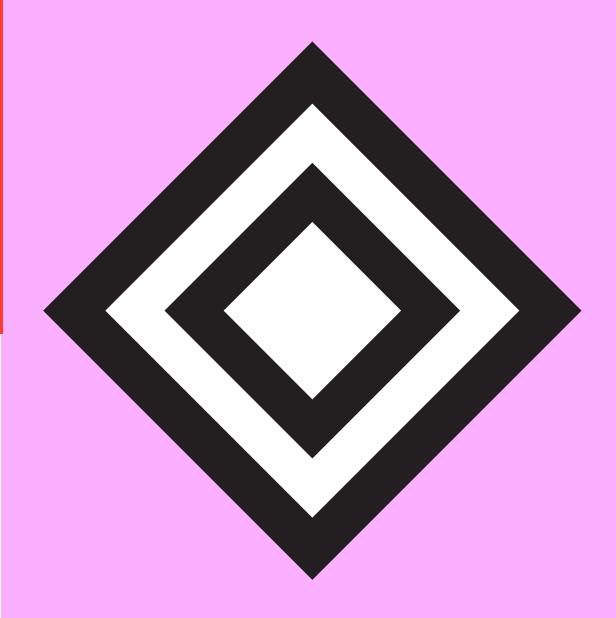


23. Adopted with Council of Ministers Decision No. 91, dated 9.2.2022 "On adopting the National Plan for European Integration 2022 - 2024"

Table 16: List of key indicators performance related with goal 3

No.	Type of Indicator	Name of Indicator	Relation to the Purpose of the Policy	Relation to the Specific Objective	Responsible institution
1	Outcome	% of youth who report having a healthy lifestyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth. Safety, protection and inclusion of youth across their diversity, particularly youth at risk or youth at risk of social exclusion (vulnerability). 	Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly with regard to their physical, social, mental and sexual health and wellbeing.	MoSYC, MoHSP, NYA
2	Outcome	% of health centers equipped with youth friendly environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth. Safety, protection and inclusion of youth across their diversity, particularly youth at risk or youth at risk of social exclusion (vulnerability). 	Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly with regard to their physical, social, mental and sexual health and wellbeing.	MoSYC, MoHSP,
3	Outcome	% of public employees trained in providing youth friendly services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth. Safety, protection and inclusion of youth across their diversity, particularly youth at risk or youth at risk of social exclusion (vulnerability). 	Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly with regard to their physical, social, mental and sexual health and wellbeing.	MoHSP, ASPA





Specific Objective 3.1

Protecting, supporting and ensuring the safety of youth, particularly of those at risk, in their place of residence and in the digital space

► Leading institutions

MoSYC, NYA, MoES, MoJ and Mol

► Contributing institutions

NAIS, NECCA, AMA, State Agency for Child Rights and Protection, General Directorate of State Police, Local self-governance units

Situation analysis and challenges

Aspects of greater youth inclusion became more pronounced in government policies, especially in the situations created by the 2019 earthquake and the Covid-19 pandemic. Considering that Albania is part of the global developments and that migratory movements have a direct impact on the life of youth, engagement in social activities that develop the community remains a priority for any government and for any development policies implemented in the country.

The government has paid ample attention to child protection issues and prevention of juvenile crime developing specific programs in these fields, which explain the decreasing number of young people suspected for committing criminal acts or in penitentiaries or prisons institutions as shown in the following tables.

However, much remains to be done with regard to cybercrime and cyberbullying impacting youth. In addition, the NYAP 2015-2020 assessment report found that six indicators (60%) regarding issues related to youth social protection, including violence-related, social inequality and human trafficking information development have not been achieved.

- Lack of adequate and safe facilities for play and physical activity in the community.

Chart 1: Rate of children under 18 years old suspected of criminal offenses per 100,000 children, by age group

**Note: The number of children (under 18 years old) suspected of committing criminal offenses, registered by the police during the year, in relation to 100,000 average population. Source: General Directorate of Police/INSTAT*

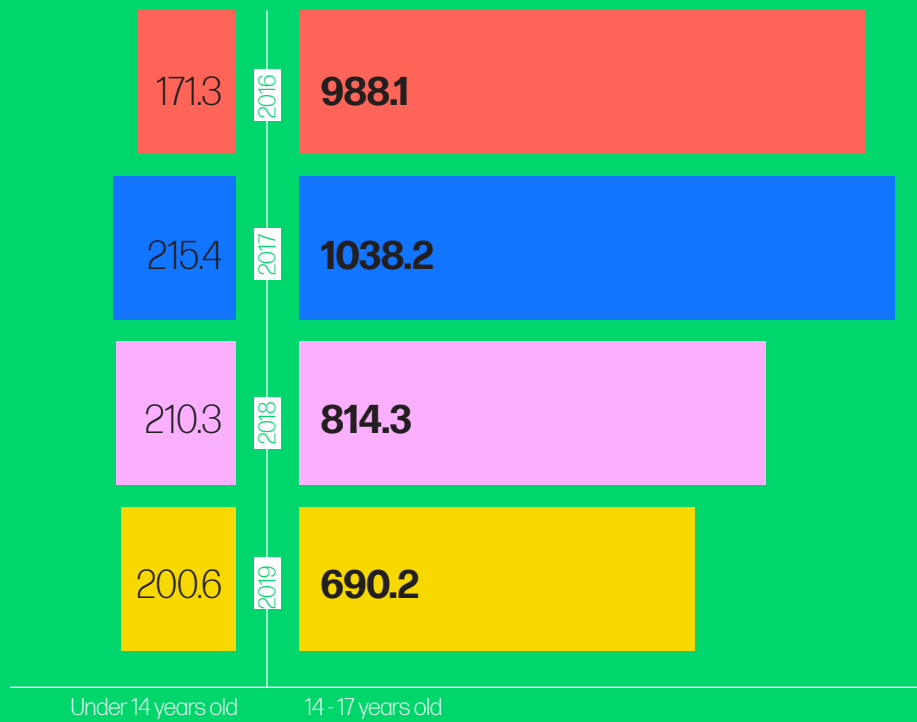
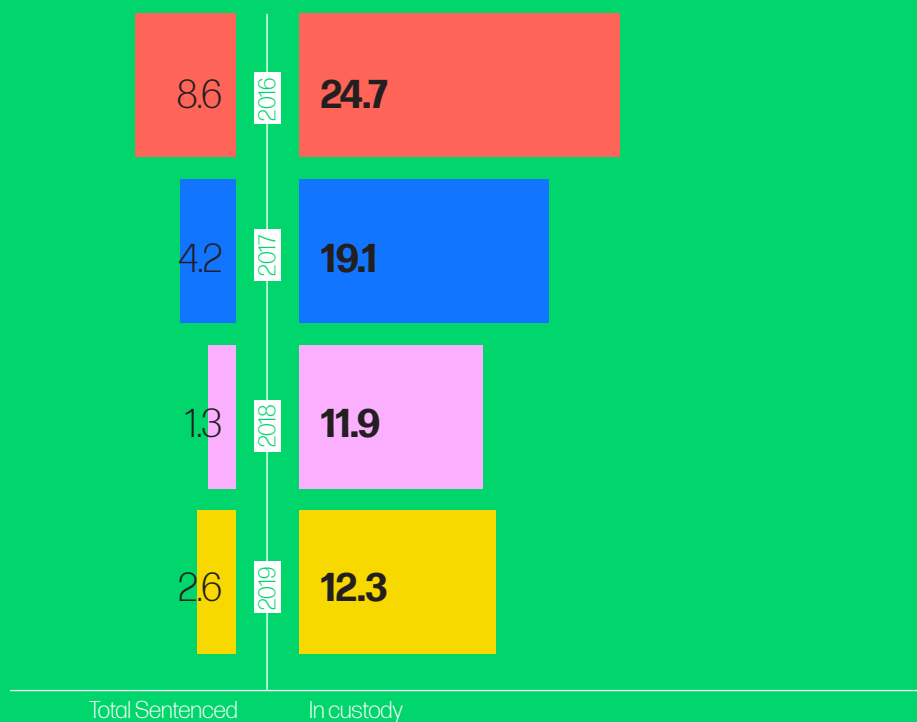


Chart 2: The rate of children aged 14-17 years old in institutions of deprivation of liberty per 100,000 of the relevant population

**Note: The number of children aged 14-17 years old in custody and sentenced to imprisonment, in relation to 100,000 average population. Source: General Directorate of Police/INSTAT*



- ▶ Sufficient number of psychologists and social workers specialized in working with youth in upper secondary education institutions, who cooperate with local social services in municipalities and pre-university education directorates.

The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the special objectives are detailed in the action plan uploaded on IPSIS.

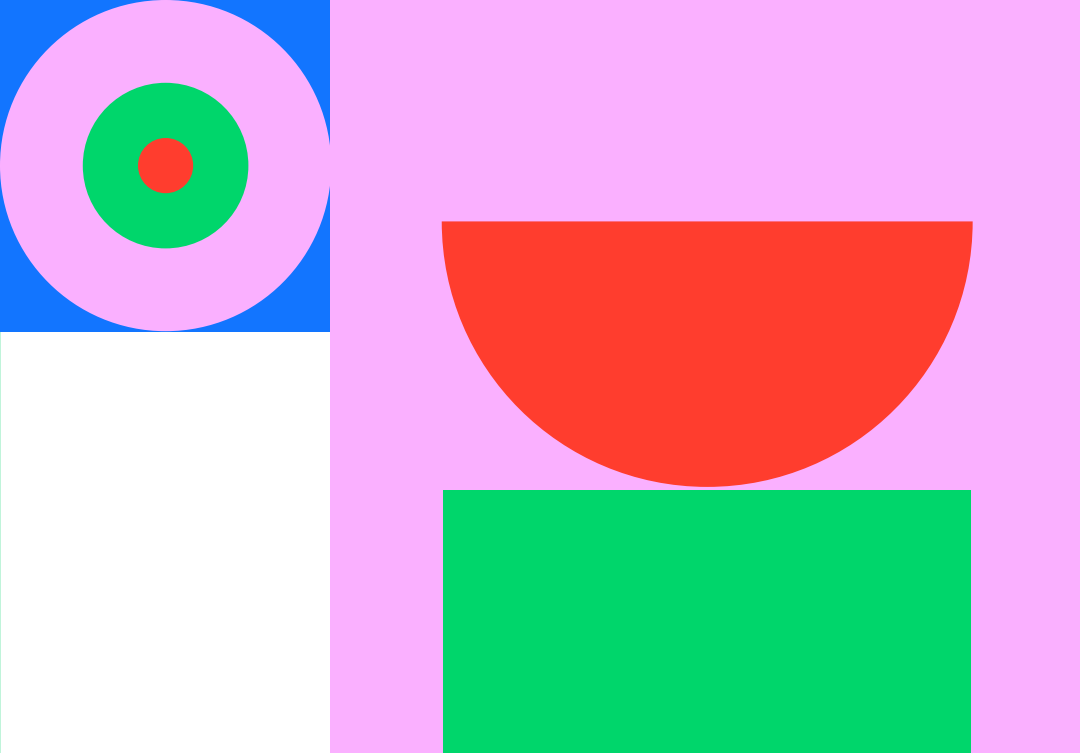
Relation of the specific objective with the Stabilization and Association Agreement and SDGs

Specific Objective 31 aims to enhance youth safety by providing opportunities for inclusion and avoiding social exclusion. This objective is related to Heading VII of the SAA and article 78 thereto which is related to strengthening Rule of Law institutions as well as the National Plan for European Integration 2022-2024 in regard to political criteria and more specifically to human rights and human capital development issues.

In regard to sustainable development goals, this specific objective is related to SDG 16 in terms of promoting stronger justice and institutions, with SDG 3 in relation to well-being and SDG 5 in terms of gender equality.

Table 17: List of measures for achieving specific objective 31

No. of measure	Measures under specific objective 3.1
311	Coordinating the implementation of National Protection and Security Strategies and programmes, with a special focus on the online virtual presence of youth, establishment of safe spaces, cybercrime and online bullying.
312	Reinforcing programmes addressing the issues of security threats to trafficked youth, dangers from different forms of crime, prevention and combatting of gender-based sexual violence and intimate partner violence against young women, and prevention of human/youth trafficking.
313	Reinforcing programmes enabling youth engaged in violent or radicalized groups to leave such circumstances, proposing so-called exit strategies.
314	Promoting programmes for youth detained or imprisoned by establishing reintegration and support mechanisms to develop employment skills and to ensure integration through community work, psychological support and social enterprises.
315	Enhancing programmes addressing irregular migration and human trafficking with youth-specific, youth-friendly and acceptable approaches, focusing on the prevention of such phenomena and the return of youth to school, training or work.
316	Reinforcing youth programs focused on human and minority rights, gender equality, diversity acceptance, tolerance and non-violent communication.
317	Developing and enhancing programmes and youth activities addressing issues of different forms of discrimination against socio-cultural, religious, sexual and other identities.



Specific Objective 3.2

Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly in regard to their mental, social, physical and sexual health and well-being

► **Leading institutions**

MoSYC and MoHSP

► **Contributing institutions**

NYA, PHI

Situation analysis and challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic and the relevant challenges of overcoming the 2019 earthquake crisis have led to health consequences even among the Albanian youth. Apparently, the provision of youth (adolescents) services and youth-friendly and youth-oriented services has ceased since 2015 in Albania,²⁴ although the strategy of promoting public health, sexual and reproductive health and the basic package of services in primary health care (revised version) targets the needs of youth and adolescents. The documents are in compliance with the 2017-2022 contraception safety action plan.

The health promotion strategy of the country targets adolescents and youth raising health awareness and creating supportive environments for healthier lifestyles, addressing issues including nutrition, physical activity, violence, smoking, alcohol, drugs, mental health, sexual and reproductive health and family planning. It also includes a target where “at least 50% of young people use youth-friendly health services”. The basic service package includes the provision of information on sexual and reproductive health, family planning and STIs for young people.

The Ministry of Health and Social Protection drafted standards for youth-friendly health services, with the support of UNFPA, which were further integrated into the basic services package in primary Health Care and did not operate separately.

24. *Assessment of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health in the context of universal health coverage in Albania*, p.22 <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/330457/9789289054706-eng.pdf>

International standards for youth service provision have specific requirements to ensure privacy using separate facilities and separate access to a clinical medical facility providing youth-friendly services. This remains a specific concern for rural areas, where the ability to preserve confidentiality is limited.

Youth mental health is threatened by negligence regarding such issues, but also by the easy access to social networks where young people encounter harmful elements, such as self-comparison to well-known personalities, access to inappropriate materials for youth, lack of time to care for themselves, cyberbullying and discrimination.

- Updating and implementing protocols for youth-friendly health services.
- Dealing with problems personally without support from the school and the health system.
- Lack of policies promoting the health and well-being of adolescents and youth.
- Providing free of charge youth-friendly services in the 12 regions of the country, as well as restructuring existing primary healthcare services to be youth-friendly, including reproductive health services.
- Educating adolescents with life skills, including gender-specific, culturally-appropriate health information.
- Lack of integrated health services to manage adolescents abusing substances (tobacco, alcohol, drugs) and suffering from addiction (including addiction to videogames and electronic devices).
- Gender, age, sexual orientation and ethnicity-based discrimination or risk of discrimination faced by youth groups in society.
- Ensuring social justice based on rural and urban distinctions

Table 18: List of key performance indicators related to specific objective 3.2

MAIN OUTCOME INDICATORS

No.	Type of Indicator	Name of Indicator	Relation to the Purpose of the Policy	Relation to the Specific Objective	Responsible institution
1	Outcome	% of youth who report having a healthy lifestyle	Active, healthy, physical, social and mental wellbeing of youth. Safety, protection and inclusion of youth in the across their diversity, particularly endangered youth or youth at risk of social exclusion (vulnerability).	Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly in regard to their physical, social, mental and sexual health and wellbeing.	MoSYC, MoHSP, LSGUs
2	Outcome	% of health centers are equipped with youth friendly environments	Active, healthy, physical, social and mental wellbeing of youth. Safety, protection and inclusion of youth in the across their diversity, particularly endangered youth or youth at risk of social exclusion (vulnerability).	Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly in regard to their physical, social, mental and sexual health and wellbeing.	MoSYC, MoHSP,
3	Outcome	% of public employees trained in providing youth friendly services	Active, healthy, physical, social and mental wellbeing of youth. Safety, protection and inclusion of youth in the across their diversity, particularly endangered youth or youth at risk of social exclusion (vulnerability).	Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly in regard to their physical, social, mental and sexual health and wellbeing.	MoHSP, ASPA

Various studies²⁵ show that almost one in three children (32%) have been physically harmed by their parents or other adults in their respective families. The prevalence of lifelong emotional abuse was 16% (13% in boys versus 18% in girls). Sexual abuse is over 8% and the prevalence of life-long sexual relations with an adult (attempted and/or experienced) is approximately 3%. Important correlations to life-long sexual abuse include mother's unemployment, life-long smoking and use of alcohol, life-long sexual relations and domestic violence. The 2021-2030 Health Strategy reflects on the lessons learned in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it specifically addresses the need to strengthen health emergencies response capacities and to increase the resilience of the health system as a whole. It aims to continue efforts for improving the health and well-being of the population by fulfilling their rights to good health during the 2021-2030 period.

The strategy is based on five core goals, life-long investment in the health of the population, universal service coverage, strengthening the healthcare system, with a specific focus on citizens, strengthening response and emergency services and digital health. The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the special objectives are detailed in the action plan uploaded on IPSIS.

Relation of the specific objective with the Stabilization and Association Agreement

Specific objective 3.2 aims to enhance good health practices and practicing sports through empowerment of youth work in health counseling and through close collaboration with MoHSP in terms of promoting activities related to national health and inclusion strategies. The objective is associated with Article 78 under heading VII of the SAA and article 99 under heading VIII. This specific objective is also related to SDG 3, which aims for good health and wellbeing.

Table 19: List of measures for achieving specific objective 3.2

No. of measure	Measures under specific objective 3.2
321	Aligning the 2021-2030 National Health Strategy, 2021-2026 Agenda for Children, action plans and other related strategies with the measures proposed in the National Youth Strategy, particularly with regard to the promotion of healthy living.
322	Developing appropriate and youth-friendly approaches at health facilities, which take into account the transition from pediatric medical facilities and services to those for adults.
323	Developing new services and improving existing ones at schools, ensuring quality of support for mental and psychological health, and supporting online mental health services on the "Youth for Youth" youth platform.
324	Ensuring admission of youth in appropriate services of prevention and promotion under the 2022-2030 National Action Plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, in order to ensure that youth living in Albania receive general education/information in an appropriate and youth-friendly manner.
325	Proposing and carrying out activities related to dangerous behaviors and drug use, ensuring the provision of comprehensive information and education to youth. Ensuring access of youth to appropriate preventive interventions and addiction treatment services.

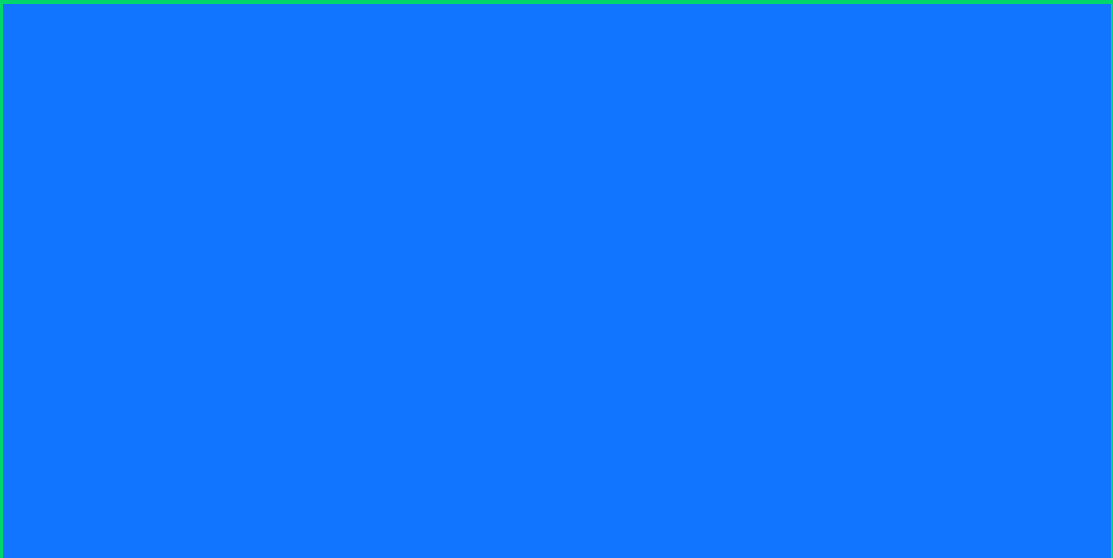
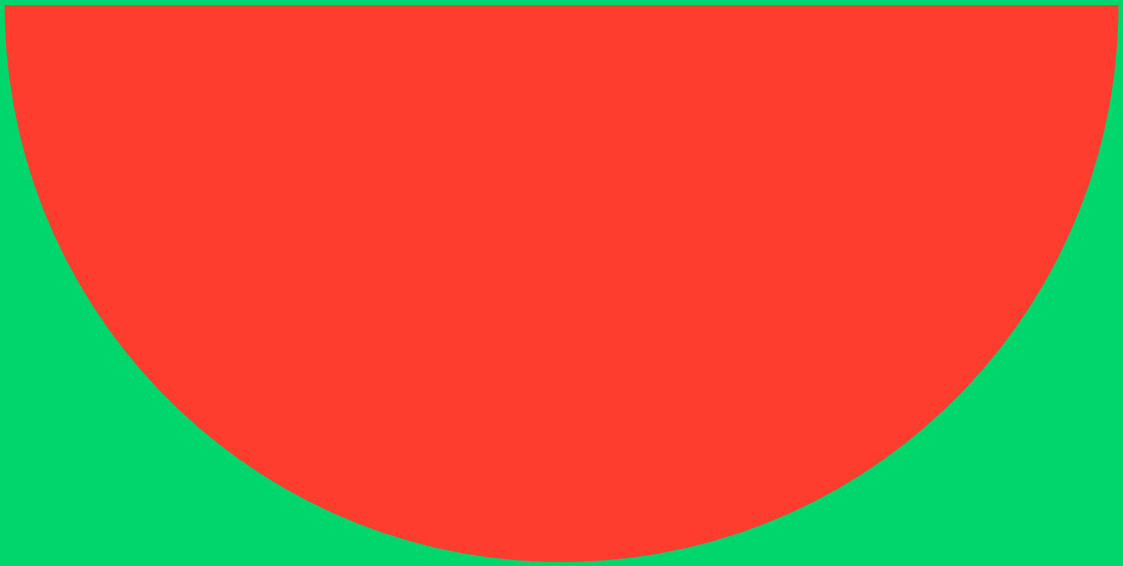
*Full list of measures has been provided based on the IPSIS action plan.

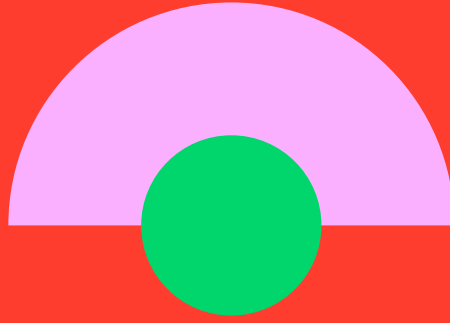
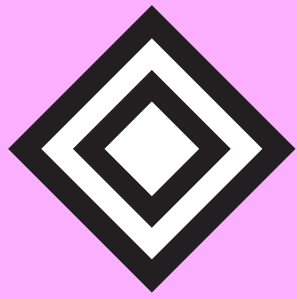
Figure 5: Data on good health and well-being

SDG 3 - Good health and well-being		Data
3.8.1	Coverage of the population with basic health services	Unmeasured
3.9.1	Mortality per 100,000 population due to indoor or outdoor air pollution	Unmeasured
3.a.1 (1)	Prevalence of young people (15-19, 20-24 years old) who consume different tobacco products	Unmeasured

*According to the INSTAT and UNICEF publication "Children, Adolescents and Youth-Focused Wellbeing Indicators in Albania 2016-19", p.18

25. Health Behavior in School-aged Children aged 11, 13, and 15, 2017/18 study.





Specific Objective 3.3

Youth are supported in their inclusion and integration in society by being provided with housing and leisure opportunities (in culture, art and sport)

► Leading institutions

MoSYC, MoHSP, MoE

► Contributing institutions

NYA, ASLSG, Municipalities, MoES, MoHSP, MoI, MoJ, ASCAP

Situation analysis and challenges

The Law on Youth pays special attention to developing dedicated youth spaces and the government is currently supporting this process. Furthermore, the government programme foresees financial support for young couples who wish to purchase an apartment, which is also related to the transition from the reconstruction period after the 2019 earthquake to building new residences for couples who wish to begin an independent life, considering that many young people choose to emigrate rather than thriving in the country due to challenges in obtaining residential space and other circumstances.

48% of the measures and activities foreseen in NYAP 2015-2020 regarding health, sports and the environment were fully completed, while 39% of the measures related to culture and volunteering were fully completed. Even though among the highest levels in relation to indicator completion, this allows space for new developments and greater focus on development and extracurricular education processes, such as community schools and national arts and crafts programmes, which play a key role in integrating society, especially in post-pandemic conditions.

Inclusion and integration of youth, as well as reducing economic and gender inequality presents the following challenges:

- Developing standard-based youth spaces responding to youth requirements and needs
- Construction of spaces in every municipality

Figure 5: Data on Reducing Inequalities

SDG 10 - Reducing Inequalities	Source	Year	Data
10.21 Proportion of children (0-17 years old) living below 50 per cent of median income	EU-SILC/INSTAT	2018	22.1

**INSTAT and UNICEF study "Children, Adolescents and Youth-Focused Wellbeing Indicators in Albania 2016-19," p. 20*

- ▶ Creation of youth dedicated spaces in school facilities
- ▶ Provision of dedicated services and support for school inclusion
- ▶ Enhancement of youth services to facilitate youth integration and their transition into independent life

The interrelated measures and budgets to achieve the special objectives are detailed in the action plan uploaded on IPSIS.

Table 20: Measures according to specific objective 3.3

MAIN OUTCOME INDICATORS

No. of measure	Measures under specific objective 3.3
3.31	Supporting the construction, repair and renovation of public spaces designated for youth, to improve youth access to safe assembly and leisure spaces.
3.32	Supporting inclusion programmes and inclusion, safety, and protection policies, with a particular focus on youth
3.33	Supporting and promoting the government programme for housing financial assistance for new families and, in cooperation with central and local governmental actors, as well as donor organizations, urging the development of other programmes to the benefit of new families and couples.

Relation of the specific objective with the Stabilization and Association Agreement

Specific Objective 3.3 is by nature integrating and aims for no young person to be excluded as well as their active engagement in society through volunteering activities, and developing measures for more youth leisure activities. This objective is also related to youth integration in terms of housing and assistance to create an independent life in new families. Thus, this objective is related to Article 99 of heading VIII of the SAA as well as Article 101, which focuses on cultural cooperation.

This specific objective is specifically related to SDG 3 in terms of youth service and infrastructure support; with SDG 5 and 10 in terms of inclusion and non-exclusion, as well as SDG 11 focusing on providing affordable housing for youth who want to be independent and wish to create their family in their own dwelling.

- The full list of measures has been provided in the action plan on IPSIS.

PART **3** **PRIORITY GOVERNMENT MEASURES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION**

To determine priority measures in this strategy, mechanisms more closely related to the demands of youth and at the same time more directly related to the European integration process are used.

From this perspective, the following measures have been given priority:

Measure 1.3.1. Establishing statistical and research databases on youth in Albania through the enhancement of scientific research on youth at both national and international levels, resulting from stronger youth research as an academic and scientific field. This measure lays the right foundation to build and strengthen research about youth. It creates the opportunity to develop more effective youth policies based on statistical and scientific data. Furthermore, this measure allows for collaboration among youth institutions in the EU and beyond, based on data exchange and coordination of youth policies.

MEASURE 1.3.1

Measure 2.1.2. Encouraging and enhancing youth employment in ICT and digitalization through development of learning programs in coding, ICT and digitalization, based on market studies and employment in this area, in Albania and beyond. This measure strengthens the government's goal to encourage employment through development in new fields and improves opportunities for effective youth engagement in the labour market, providing good professional opportunities. This measure aims to increase participation in the labour market by creating part-time employment for young girls and women in alternative environments.

MEASURE 2.1.2

Measure 2.2.1. Supporting youth at critical development periods, such as transitioning into upper secondary education and from pre-university education to the labour market or university studies with counseling and information, connecting education field selection to labour market opportunities, in alignment with the measures stipulated under the 2021-26 National Education Strategy and the National Strategy of Employment and Skills. Youth employment in innovative fields is preceded by effective employment and career counseling at the end of compulsory education as well as before entering the labour market. Based on the EU-supported Youth Guarantee, the "Stay in School" programme supported by the Republic of Italy and projects from other donors in the field, the career counseling process has strong foundations and accompanies youth in their professional growth.

MEASURE 2.2.1

Measure 2.2.3. Supporting and implementing amateur sports, arts, arts and crafts programmes, and other extracurricular activities aimed at developing skills for a healthy life, with a particular focus on girls and young women. This measure is a priority because it provides support for youth in their free time. Youth engagement in sports and arts improves their physical and mental health and creates closer connections to each other, the environment and the community. This measure provides for the development of regional and European collaboration by connecting sport and art programmes supported by the European Union and other international organizations.

MEASURE 2.2.3

Measure 3.3.1. Supporting the construction, repair and renovation of public spaces designated for youth, in order to improve youth access to safe assembly spaces in their free time. This measure is a priority since its completion covers the remaining part of the specter of the other main demands youth made in the meetings held with them. This measure and its infrastructural character make youth policies sustainable and focus them at municipalities and closer to youth. The development of such centers provides European collaboration opportunities and enables obtaining the best experience in this field and to be implemented in accordance with the Albanian context.

MEASURE 3.3.1

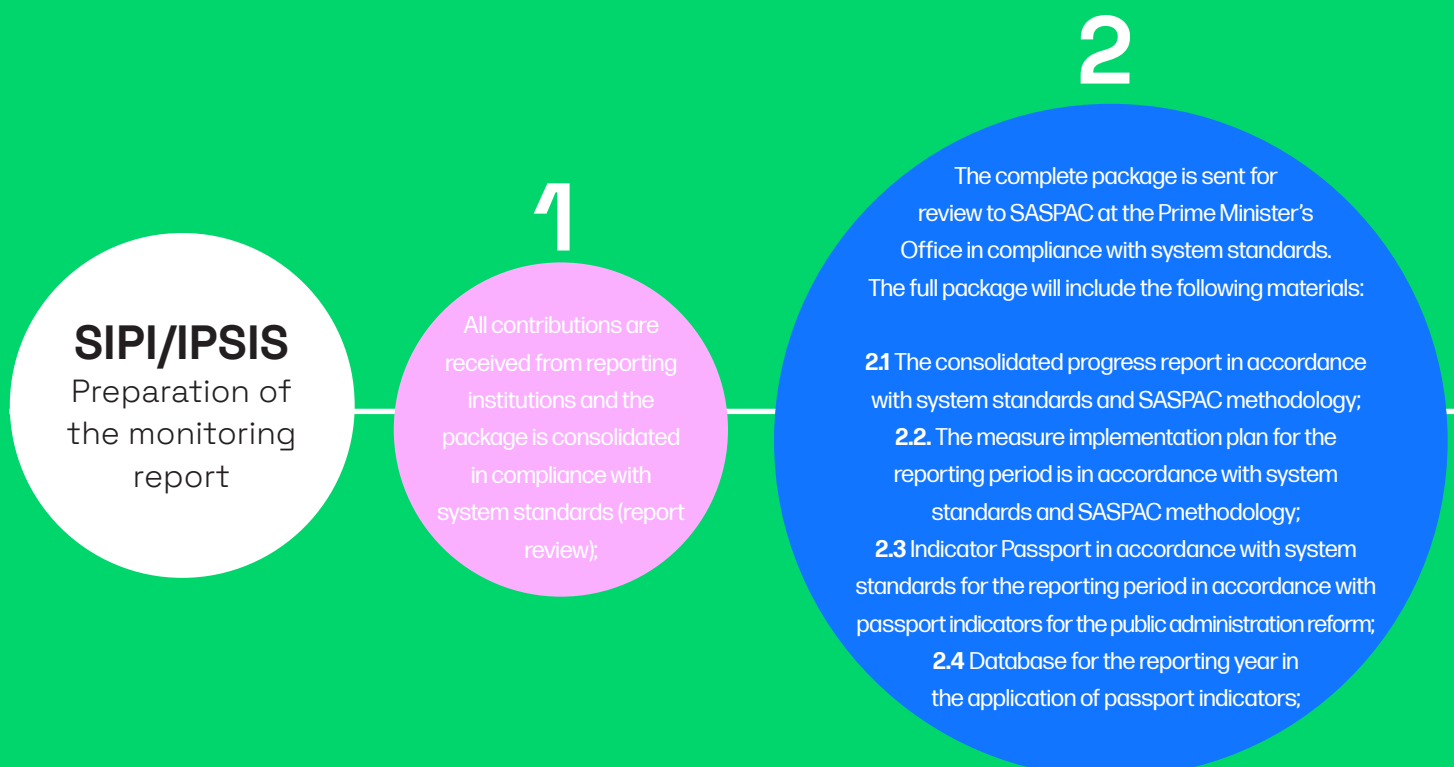
PART 4 IMPLEMENTATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND COORDINATION

The effective and successful implementation of the 2022-2029 NYS will be accomplished through a monitoring and assessment system to verify progress in achieving specific objectives and measures provided in the Action Plan.

The entire monitoring and assessment process will be managed by the Sectoral Steering Committee for the National Youth Strategy 2022-29, as foreseen in Order of the Prime Minister No. 157 dated 22.10.2018 "On taking measures to implement a wider sectoral/inter-sectoral approach and the establishment and operation of an integrated sectoral/inter-sectoral mechanism".

The Steering Committee will operate based on thematic groups which will be part of the youth sector Group for Integrated Policy Management and other contributing institutions, as well as the Technical Secretariat which will be formally established by order of the Minister of State for Youth and Children.

Monitoring reports will be drafted in collaboration with all institutions involved and will be discussed in the thematic groups established for this purpose, according to the NYS 2022-2029 specific objectives, to be later adopted by the youth sector Sectoral Steering Committee.



In addition, the establishment of a middle level management from MoSYC and youth governance institutions, as well as MoSYC to discuss issues and obstacles which may arise during the implementation of the NYS and during the normal course of activities of the relevant institutions, which require a common approach has been agreed upon.

The Purpose of Policy 1 includes developing better sector statistics and performance management systems, with the purpose of generating timely and accurate reporting on objective completion.

Monitoring methodology

The MoSYC will develop annual and semi-annual monitoring and assessment reports based on IPSIS standards for monitoring and reporting of strategic documents, which will generate necessary and timely information for policy-makers on the implementation progress of measures provided in the NYS Action Plan in the following 2 years. In addition, a midterm monitoring is foreseen by the end of 2026 covering implementation up to that date. Taking into consideration the degree of financial sources mobilisation for its implementation, the strategic document action plan will be revised every 2-3 years, to ensure real assessment of its implementation.

The MoSYC will use the monitoring methodology based on IPSIS standards, which will determine how the monitoring and assessment process will be conducted, aiming to create an effective, unified and systematic data reporting system for all institutions included in the implementation of the IPSIS system.

According to this strategic document, each institution reports the implementation level of each objective and measure, the allocated budget, issues encountered and progress evaluation of the strategy overall. The monitoring process will be undertaken at objective level with regard to engagements undertaken and measure implementation. Verification of the reported data is partly conducted online to guarantee their accuracy. Statistical data processing is conducted by numbering answers based on the reports received. These are usually narrative reports, but they can also be statistical reports using performance indicators.

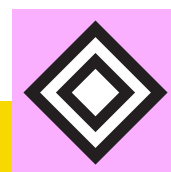
In accordance with reporting and monitoring procedures to be followed, pursuant to Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 290, dated 11.4.2020 "On the establishment of the state Integrated Planning System Information System (IPSIS) database", the subsequent phases will be followed for the development of monitoring reports.



Participatory and external assessment methodology

The National Youth Strategy monitoring and evaluation process is based on a document providing quality standards for the monitoring and evaluation of youth policies²⁶ developed by the European Youth Forum, and on a document developed by SIGMA for the evaluation of the public administration strategy²⁷ in Albania. The latter document provides the model for evaluating cross-sectoral strategies based on the Public Administration Reform strategy.

1. The fifth measure of the policy which is related to the implementation and administration of the strategy provides for the development of the National Youth Strategy monitoring and evaluation mechanism. According to this mechanism:
 - ▶ The assessment of the NYS by youth organizations and other youth sector stakeholders should be organised in the framework of an annual youth conference
 - ▶ An annual external assessment of the NYS implementation should be undertaken
 - ▶ Instructions for gender and youth budgeting, monitoring and assessment are developed at each level.



Eight standards of European Youth Forum for strategies evaluation

STANDARD 1: RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO YOUTH POLICY.

Indicators

1. The concept of youth rights is recognized in the relevant policy documents.
2. Youth policy is clearly anchored in the universal or pluralist, democracy and human rights values and addresses positively and equally all young people, regardless of their gender, race, ethnic group, etc.
3. The national youth policy endorses the existing legal instruments on Human Rights.
4. Youth policy recognizes young people not as beneficiaries, but as participating rights bearers. Thus, it establishes corresponding duty bearers like Member States and other public actors, who can be held accountable to the rights of young people.

STANDARD 2: EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH POLICY

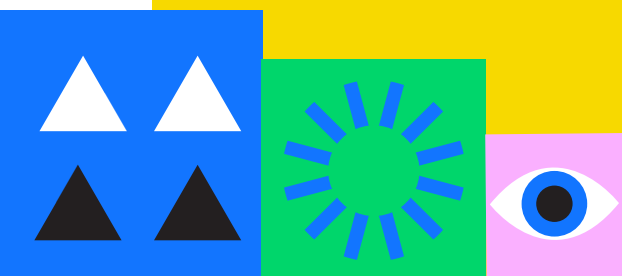
Indicators

1. Research is regularly conducted on living conditions, aspirations and perceptions of groups representing young people.
2. Research data is independent and not manipulated throughout the policy cycle.
3. Appropriate resources (financial, human...) are allocated for youth-related research.
4. The policy is based on up-to-date information and research.

STANDARD 3: PARTICIPATORY YOUTH POLICY

Indicators

1. All relevant stakeholders (civil society organizations, and other sectors of the society) are involved in all phases of the policy cycle.
2. Youth organisations are involved in all phases of the policy cycle.
3. Public authorities make special efforts to involve unorganised youth and young people with fewer opportunities throughout the policy cycle.



26. A Toolkit for Quality Standards on Youth Policy: <https://pjp-eu.coe.int/documents/42128013/47262391/Toolkit+on+Quality+Standards+for+Youth+Policy++European+Youth+Forum.pdf/c5d10d1b-c704-e45a-50f6-e0ace956ae42>

27. Concept Paper on the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Cross-Sectoral Public Administration Reform Strategy in Albania, 2015: https://www.dap.gov.al/images/DokumentaStrategjik/Dokument_Koncepti_mbi_Sistemin_e_Monitorimit_dhe_te_Vleresimit.pdf

2. The document developed by the European Youth Forum provides 8 standards for strategy evaluation, each with relevant indicators on which the evaluation for that standard is based.
3. The document developed by SIGMA for the evaluation of cross-sectoral strategies provides the evaluation framework and the methods for conducting this process, focusing on the internal work organisation at the government level and the regulations underpinning the strategy monitoring and evaluation, while stressing:
 - ▶ The institutional management, monitoring and evaluation structure;
 - ▶ The strategy monitoring and reporting system;
 - ▶ The strategy policy evaluation;
 - ▶ The strategy interim monitoring process;
 - ▶ The quarterly reporting instructions;
 - ▶ The annual reporting instructions;
 - ▶ Report templates and monitoring activities calendar.
4. The monitoring and evaluation processes are based on the elements defined by the OECD in this regard, and include all the elements provided in the table below:

STANDARD 4: MULTI-LEVEL YOUTH POLICY

Indicators

1. The national youth strategy and youth policies recognise the existence of policy frameworks at other levels.
2. The national, regional and local level youth strategy/policy objectives are coordinated and thus complementary and mutually reinforcing.
3. Youth policy measures reflect the geographical and socio-economic diversity within and in between different administrative units (such as municipalities, regions, etc.).

STANDARD 5: STRATEGIC YOUTH POLICY

Indicators

1. There is an overarching youth strategy.
2. Youth strategy objectives are measurable, resourced and defined in time.

STANDARD 6: AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES FOR YOUTH POLICY

Indicators

1. Sufficient government financial resources are available for youth organisations to support the implementation of youth policies.
2. Youth organisations and young people are supported with capacity building by public authorities.

3. There are sufficient financial and human resources available for public authorities working on youth policy.

STANDARD 7: POLITICAL COMMITMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN YOUTH POLICY

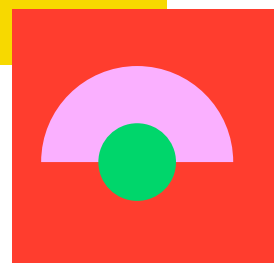
Indicators

1. The various stakeholders in the policy-making process take responsibility for their actions and can be held accountable for them.
2. Policymakers report publicly throughout all stages of the youth policy cycle on a regular basis.
3. Youth organisations monitor youth policy implementation in order to ensure the needs and interests of young people are met.

STANDARD 8: CROSS-SECTORAL YOUTH POLICY

Indicators

1. Effective and coordinated collaboration across sectors, ministries and other relevant entities is in place.
2. Youth issues are mainstreamed throughout different relevant policy areas, hence recognising that youth issues are horizontal.
3. Youth policy evaluation is used as a mechanism of peer learning for different government sectors.



	Ex-ante	Interim	Ex-post
Relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Will the targeted intervention solve the issue? ▶ What needs does it address? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Has the initial need changed? ▶ Does the change require a corresponding adjustment of the intervention? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Has the intervention reached/impacted the target group?
Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How much chance do foreseen activities have to achieve objectives? ▶ What are the costs? Is there a way to provide the program at a more effective cost? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Do outcomes to date ensure the achievement of the objectives? ▶ What factors impact the effectiveness of component X of the intervention? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Are objectives applied according to plan? ▶ What were the reasons for the great success/failure in achieving objective X?
Efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Is the selected approach more cost-effective? ▶ Are the implementation mechanism, structures, and processes well justified? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ How can process effectiveness be improved? ▶ What institutional procedures should be simplified to make implementation more efficient? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Has activity X been implemented using the most cost-effective approach? ▶ How was the institution or process performance? ▶ What lessons can be learned?
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What is the expected impact of the intervention? ▶ Which are the impacted target groups? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Does the implementation of the intervention result in undesired effects? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What is the impact of the activity against expectations? ▶ Why is the impact lower/greater than expected?
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What are the chances for the impact to be long-term? ▶ What elements will ensure this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Are the preconditions for the sustainability of the objectives in place? ▶ What can be done to ensure they are in place? ▶ What factors are negatively impacting the sustainability of the achievements? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ What are the changes that the outcomes will be in place for longer periods of time? ▶ What are the projected future costs of the programme? ▶ What are the reasons for the low level of outcome sustainability?

Strategic framework coordination

1. Structure and levels

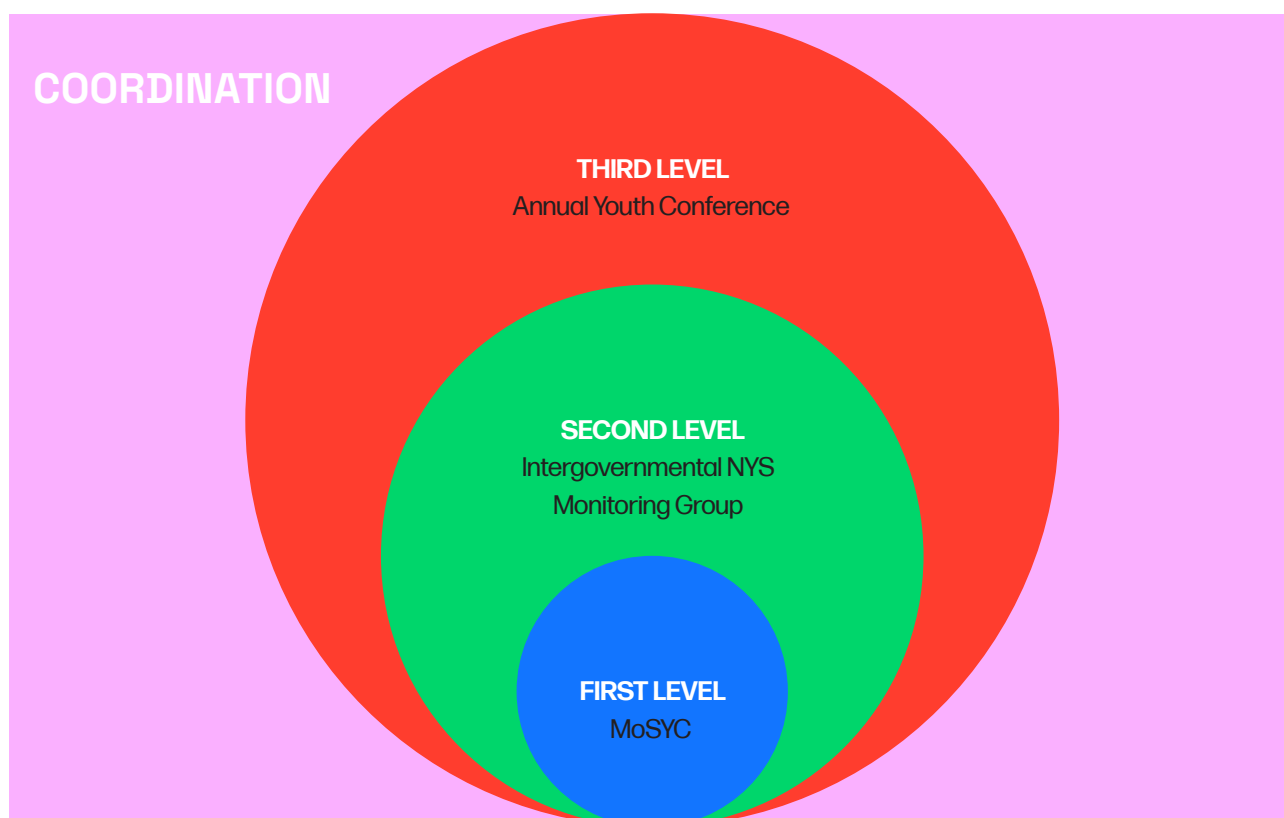
The National Youth Strategy defines an institutional organisation for multi-level management and monitoring, starting with the political level and continuing to the technical cross-sectoral levels, and ending with the role of the leading institution - the Minister of State for Youth and Children (MoSYC).

The first level consists of the leading institution - MoSYC - which coordinates the NYS in all contributing institutions with the relevant Focal Points (FP) assigned by each ministry and subordinate institution, and whose duties are to coordinate the NYS implementation with the MoSYC. The MoSYC cabinet and the National Youth Agency (NYA), in the quality of a department subordinate to the MoSYC, are tasked with the coordination of the NYS. The first level function is the daily operational management of the NYS. In cooperation with the responsible staff in municipalities, the NYA develops strategy activity monitoring reports every 2 months and reports them to the MoSYC.

The second level consists of the Intergovernmental NYS Monitoring Group. This is a high-level group composed of representatives officially appointed by the relevant ministries. This group is led by the minister responsible for youth. A monitoring report developed by the NYA is submitted to this group on a semi-annual basis. The report is discussed and the group takes measures for the overall implementation of the strategy, focusing on the impact of the reforms and also considering the NSDI.

The third level consists of the Annual Youth Conference, which evaluates the annual NYS report through the engagement of youth associations and organisations. The selection process is defined by MoSYC instructions and the organisations selected may cooperate with international organisations in the youth sector and donors to support the organisation of the conference and the annual NYS evaluation process.

A summary of the list of indicators for the National Youth Strategy 2022-2029 will be provided at the end of this document.



PART 5

ACTION PLAN AND FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Intersectoral Youth Strategy chapter provides information on funding this document, indicating the financial resources required to achieve all relevant objectives.

The detailed Action Plan has been attached as an annex to this strategic document and has been compiled in line with the methodology of the IPSIS system. The Action Plan has been cost-estimated and detailed budgets have been similarly provided in the IPSIS system, ensuring appropriate allocation of relevant institutional budget programmes.

Specifically, this part of the strategy starts by indicating the allocation of resources according to the policy objectives, as well as funding related to unfulfilled needs or the financial gap for each goal. The funding gap can be covered directly by the state budget, by donors through grants, or even by other technical assistance funds.

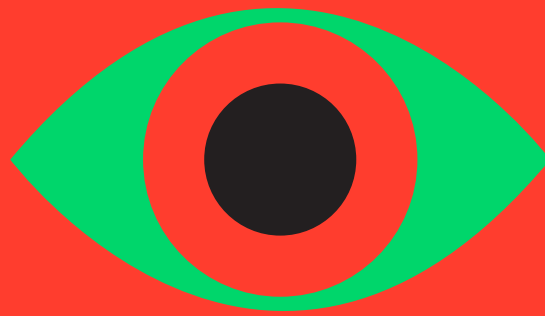
As previously indicated, the strategy comprises three policy goals and the MoSYC will be the institution responsible for coordinating actions and enabling the successful implementation of the measures foreseen in this strategy.

The majority of the funding gap relates to programme expenditures, the “Youth for Youth” platform and databases, capacity building, new employees in institutions such as NYA and INSTAT, and the infrastructure or equipment required to obtain the highest results, as well as analysing situations about various matters.

The total cost of the strategy over its eight-year period is **5,570,086,793 ALL** and the financial gap is 18.6%. The total financial gap is **-1,040,395,542 ALL**. The following chart indicates the financial gap for each of the policy goals.

As illustrated in the chart, 64% of the gap consists of funds required to achieve the first goal, 20.5% comprises the funds needed to achieve the second goal, and 15.5% indicates the necessary funds to reach the third policy goal.

Chart 1: Financial gap for each policy goal



64%

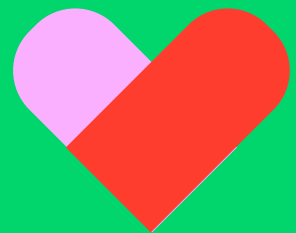
Policy Goal 1
-664,562,233



20,5%

Policy Goal 2
-213,319,250

15,5%



Policy Goal 3
-162,514,059

Capital and operational expenses needs

The needs for operational and capital expenses have been identified after defining policy goals, specific objectives, and relevant performance indicators with their respective aims and values for the 2022-2029 period. The three policy goals the expenses for which have also been identified are:

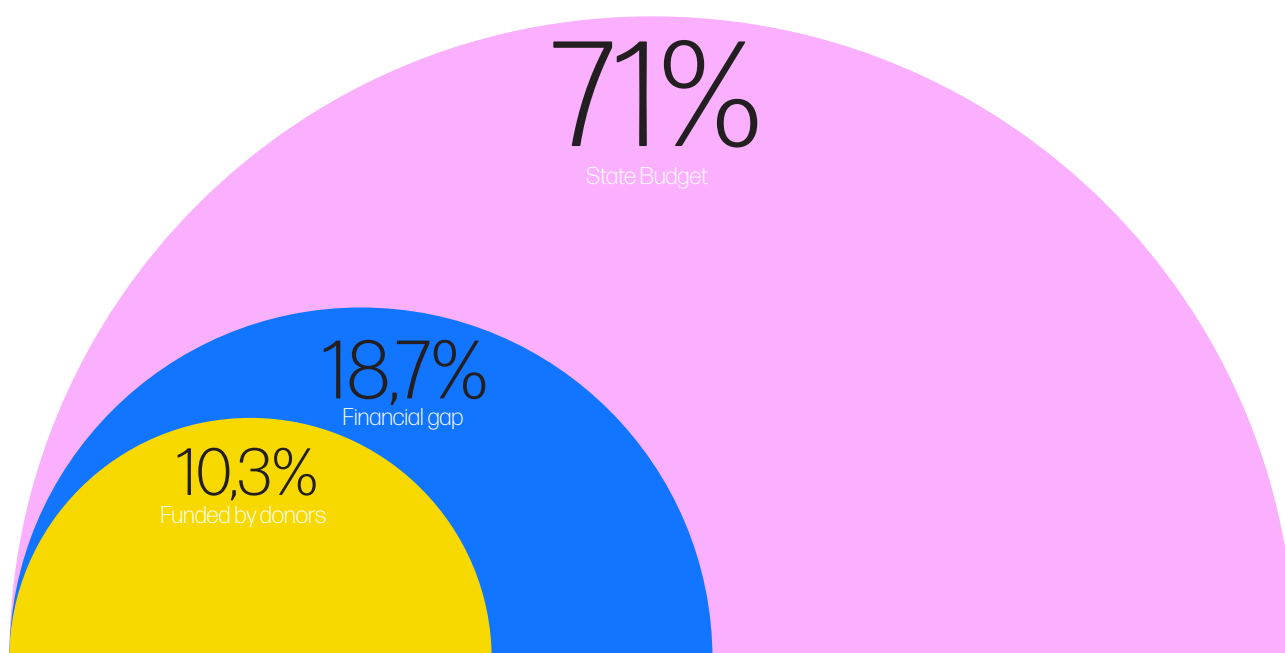
1. Empowering youth organizations and increasing youth participation - Youth actively participate in the society and feel empowered to speak for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms;
2. Education, autonomy, equity, and innovation - Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth's skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market;
3. Wellbeing and Inclusion - Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth. Youth safety, protection and inclusion across their diversity spec-

trum, particularly youth at risk or youth at risk of social exclusion.

As noted, 71% of the costs are covered by the state budget and relate to salaries, capital investments, and grants provided by the government through the NYA, NOC Albania (Ministry of Education and Sports), Startup Funds, a policy implemented by the Minister of State for the Protection of Entrepreneurship or funds that support initiatives such as expanding programming skills, 10.3% are funded by donors such as UN organizations (UNICEF, UNFPA), EU funds, RYCO, AADF, etc., while 18.7% are uncovered costs.

The financial gap is mainly composed of the expenses for developing the Youth for Youth portal, the youth database, the current situation studies, and capacity building of the responsible institutions for youth policy design and implementation. This gap also includes the need to provide grants for youth organizations to be as active as possible and directly contribute to the information, awareness, and engagement of young boys and girls.

Chart 2: Cost structure by funding source



Based on the economic classification, 77% of the total cost consists of operational expenses and 23% of capital expenses.

Most of the operational expenses consist in the “other” operational expenses category. The remainder includes salaries and the NYA and MoSYC staff expenses, youth workers in 61 municipalities or employees from other budgetary institutions.

Since the strategy consists of three policy goals, the cost for each of these goals is shown below.

The costs for achieving the first goal comprise 36.6% of the total costs. The highest costs are associated with the second policy goal achievement, comprising around 56.7% of the total cost. Meanwhile, the costs of achieving the third goal account for 6.7% of the total costs

Chart 3: Total cost structure based on economic classification

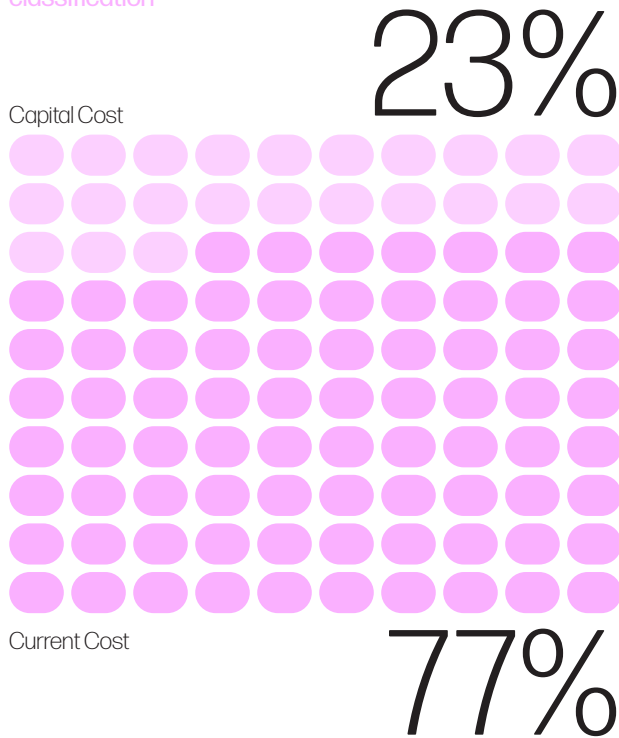


Chart 4: Cost based on policy goals

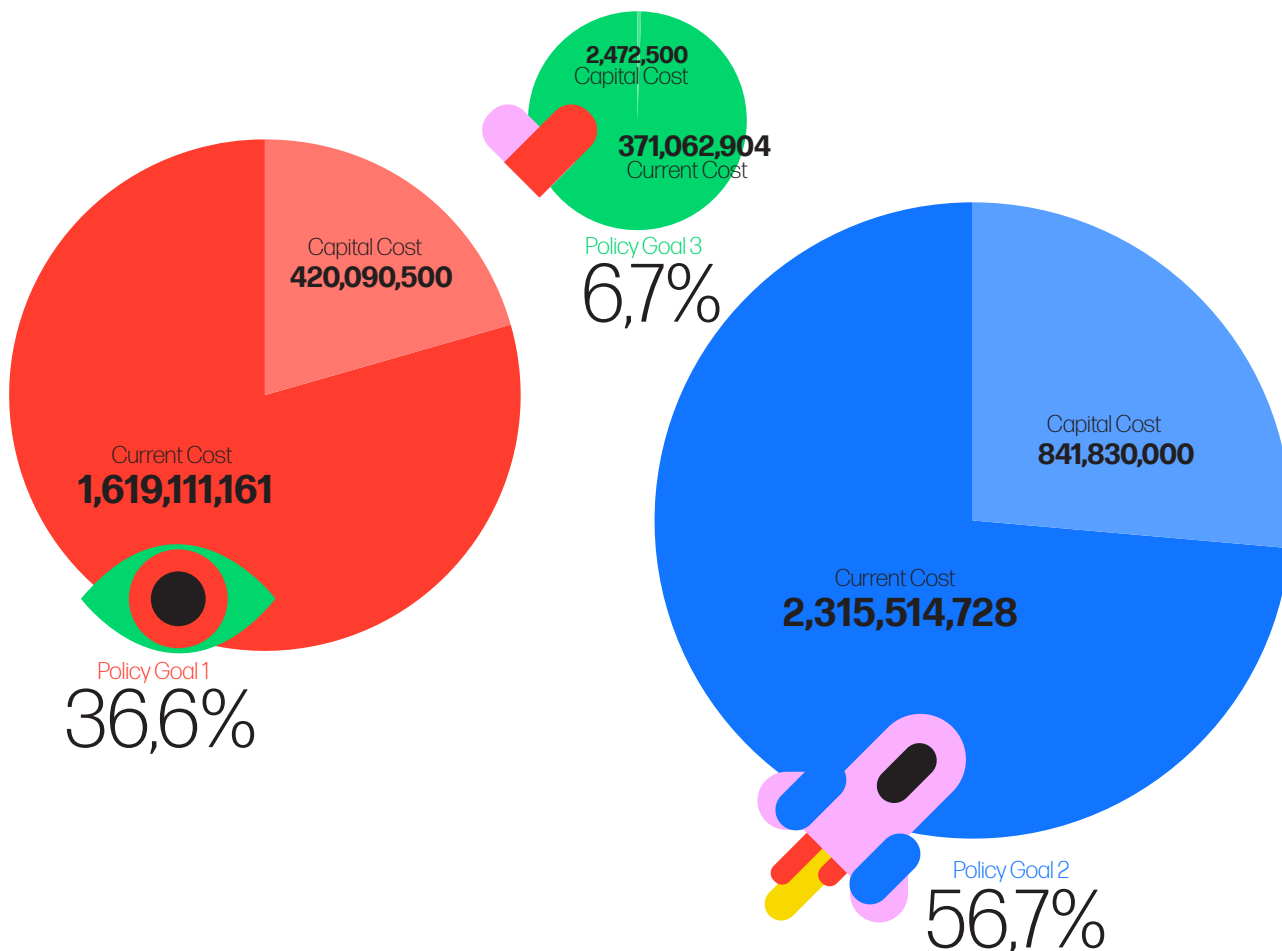
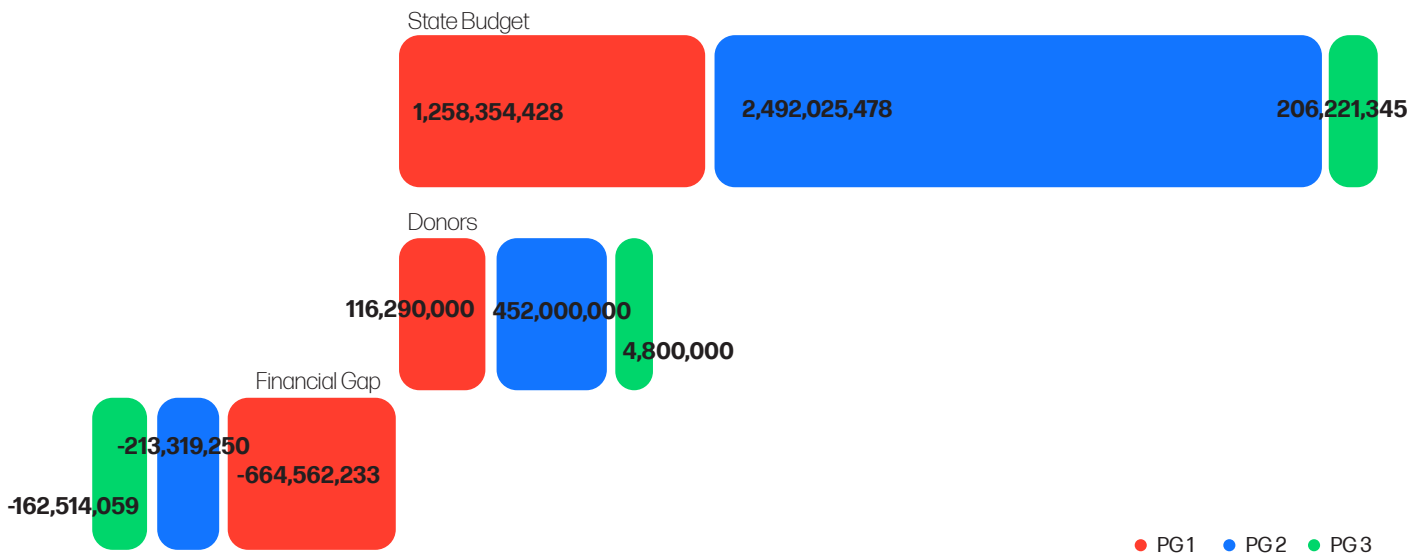


Chart 5: Summary of funding sources for all three policy goals



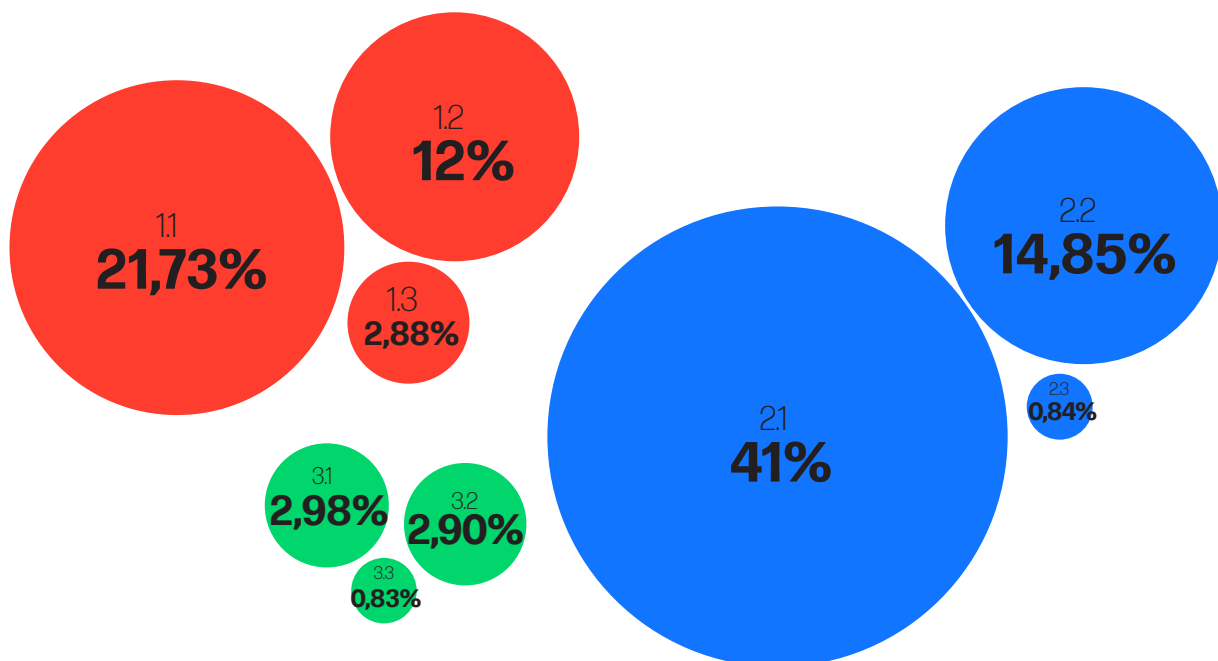
A total of 9 specific objectives have been identified across the three policy goals. The following chart illustrates the cost share for each objective of the strategy.

As illustrated, objective 1.1 and objective 2.1 have the biggest share of the total expenses, namely 41% and 21.73%. These objectives are directly related to the support provided by the state budget for youth organisations and other bodies engaged with youth organisations

and grant-giving support to implement youth policies. Objective 3.3 and objective 2.3 have the smallest share, namely 0.83% and 0.84%.

When considering the funds necessary to achieve each of the policy goals based on the share of each objective regarding the goal, the third objective of the First goal is not funded by donors. Meanwhile, objective 1.1 has the largest financial gap.

Chart 6: Share of specific objectives in the total cost of the strategy



The first objective includes the support offered by institutions and organizations to become more active. The focus is on establishing and making both LYC and NYC fully operational. Donor support is significant and evident in the second objective related to the coordination of

youth policy. All three objectives have financial gaps, expected to be covered primarily by donor support and less by state budget support. Part of the costs are also related to the well-functioning of the NYA.

Table 1: Summary of funding sources for Policy Goal 1 (ALL)

Specific Objective	Total Cost	Coverage source until 2029		Financial Gap 2022-2029 (in ALL)
		State Budget	Donor funds	
Specific Objective 1.1 Well-informed youth about the opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience and volunteer, as well as about actively participating in the civic, social and political spheres.	1210512,841	932,427,904	14,290,000	-263,794,937
Specific Objective 1.2 Ensuring youth policy is coordinated, based on analysis and harmonized across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body.	668,536,102	302,369,622	102,000,000	-264,166,480
Specific Objective 1.3 Encouraging the development of youth studies and youth-related data as part of study programs in higher education institutions and as references for further developments in the field of youth.	160,157,718	23,556,902	0	-136,600,816
Total cost	2,039,206,661	1,258,354,428	116,290,000	-664,562,233

On the other hand, when considering objective funding for the second goal, all three objectives of the goal are funded by donors. The first objective requires the biggest share of donor funding. These objectives focus on young people's digital skills and their further growth, as well as informing and enabling students to make autonomous decisions when becoming part of the active population.

Regarding the financial gap, the first objective has the largest financial gap in value and percentage of the total cost of the goal. Thus, there is a great need to fund policies that inform young people about the opportunities they may have when they become involved actively. This goal also includes expenses for innovation and digitalization. Furthermore, other crucial measures that need funding are those that might facilitate the movement of young people within and outside the country.

Table 2: Summary of funding sources for Policy Goal 2 (ALL)

Specific Objective	Total Cost	Coverage source until 2029		Financial Gap 2022-2029 (in ALL)
		State Budget	Donor funds	
<p>Specific Objective 2.1 Skilled and well-informed youth about employment opportunities and capable of making autonomous choices when joining the economically-active population.</p>	2,283,870,421	1,686,515,139	435,000,000	-162,355,282
<p>Specific Objective 2.2 Well-informed youth about education opportunities related to the labour market, and they are provided with quality learning in both formal and non-formal education contributing toward competence, skill and virtue building.</p>	826,935,027	792,489,027	14,000,000	-20,446,000
<p>Specific Objective 2.3 A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood.</p>	46,539,280	13,021,312	3,000,000	-30,517,968
Total cost	3,157,344,728	2,492,025,478	452,000,000	-213,319,250

Regarding the third goal, only one of the three objectives has received relatively low donor funding. This goal consists of measures that will be taken to improve the Well-being and Inclusion of young people.

These include measures to support and encourage young people to be at their best behavior in the society they live in, away from extremism and violence, to increase sports participation among young people, and to encourage participation in various sports at all levels. This requires funds to create as many friendly spaces as possible for young people.

Table 3: Summary of funding sources for Policy Goal 3 (ALL)

Specific Objective	Total Cost	Coverage source until 2029		Financial Gap 2022-2029 (in ALL)
		State Budget	Donor funds	
Specific Objective 3.1 Protecting, supporting and ensuring the safety of youth, particularly of those at risk, in their place of residence and in the digital space.	165,967,773	115,318,936	0	-50,648,837
Specific Objective 2 Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly as regards their mental, social, physical and sexual health and well-being.	161,297,116	85,214,170	4,800,000	-71,282,946
Specific Objective 3 Youth are supported with their inclusion and integration in society, by being provided with housing and leisure opportunities (in culture, art and sport).	46,270,515	5,688,239	0	-40,582,276
Total Cost	373,535,404	206,221,345	4,800,000	-162,514,059

ANNEX

ANNEX ANNEX ANNEX



Cost-estimated Action Plan

Policy Goal 1 - Empowering youth organization and increasing youth participation

Youth take an active role in society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms.

Specific Objective 1.1

Well-informed youth about the opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience, and volunteer, as well as actively engage in the civic, social and political spheres.

Specific Objective 1.2

Ensuring youth policy is coordinated, based on analysis and harmonized across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body.

Specific Objective 1.3

Encouraging the development of youth studies and youth-related data as part of study programs in higher education institutions and as references for further developments in the field of youth.

Specific Objective	Responsible institutions		Implementation timeline		Total Costs	Coverage source until 2029			Financing Gap EUR (Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 121 ALL)
	Leading institutions	Contributing institutions	Starting date	Ending date		State Budget	Donor funds	Financial gap 2022-2029 (in ALL)	
SO 1.1	MoSYC, NYA	NAES, Local Government Units, CEC, MoES	2022	2029	1210,512,841	932,427,904	14,290,000	-263,794,937	2,180,123
SO 1.2	MoSYC, NYA	MoFE, Line Ministries	2022	2029	668,536,102	302,369,622	102,000,000	-264,166,480	-2183,194
SO 1.3	MoSYC, NYA	MoSPE, INSTAT, NAES	2023	2029	160,157,718	23,556,902	0	-136,600,816	-1,128,932
Total Cost					2,039,206,661	1,258,354,428	116,290,000	-664,562,233	-5,492,250

Policy Goal 2 - Education, autonomy, equity, and innovation

Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing the number of and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market.

Specific Objective 2.1

Skilled and well-informed youth about employment opportunities and capable of making autonomous choices when joining the economically-active population.

Specific Objective 2.2

Well-informed youth about education opportunities related to the labour market, and they are provided with quality learning in both formal and non-formal education contributing toward competence, skill and virtue building.

Specific Objective 2.3

A special focus is placed on youth, in all circumstances and situations, with regard to training, employment, entrepreneurship, and employment policies that provide a variety of youth-specific modalities to enhance the support provided to them when transitioning from the education system to the labour market and into adulthood.

Specific Objective	Responsible institutions		Implementation timeline		Total Costs	Coverage source until 2029			
	Leading institutions	Contributing institutions	Starting date	Ending date		State Budget	Donor funds	Financial gap 2022-2029 (in ALL)	Financing Gap EUR (Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 121 ALL)
SO 2.1	MoSYC, MoFE, NAES	MoES, MoSPE, NYA, RASH, Local Government Units, MoE	2022	2029	2,283,870,421	1,686,515,139	435,000,000	-162,355,282	-1,341,779
SO 2.2	MoSYC, MoES, NYA	MoFE, NAES, NAIS, RASH, NAECCS	2023	2029	826,935,027	792,489,027	14,000,000	-20,446,000	-168,975
SO 2.3	MoFE, MoES, SAA	MoSPE, NYA, NAES, NAVETO	2023	2029	46,539,280	13,021,312	3,000,000	-30,517,968	-252,215
Total Cost			2022	2029	3,157,344,728	2,492,025,478	452,000,000	-213,319,250	-1,762,969

Policy Goal 3 - Wellbeing and Inclusion

Active, healthy, physical, social and mental well-being of youth. Youth safety, protection and inclusion across their diversity spectrum, particularly youth at risk or youth at risk of social exclusion.

Specific Objective 3.1

Protecting, supporting and ensuring the safety of youth, particularly of those at risk, in their place of residence and in the digital space.

Specific Objective 3.2

Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly as regards their mental, social, physical and sexual health and well-being.

Specific Objective 3.3

Youth are supported with their inclusion and integration in society, by being provided with housing and leisure opportunities (in culture, art and sport)

Specific Objective	Responsible institutions		Implementation timeline		Total Costs	Coverage source until 2029			
	Leading institutions	Contributing institutions	Starting date	Ending date		State Budget	Donor funds	Financial gap 2022-2029 (in ALL)	Financing Gap EUR (Exchange rate: 1 EUR = 121 ALL)
SO 3.1	MoSYC, NYA, MoES, MoJ and Mol	NAIS, NAECCS, AMA, Agency for the Protection of Child Rights, General Police Directorate, Municipalities	2022	2029	165,967,773	115,318,936	0	-50,648,837	-418,585
SO 3.2	MoSYC and MoHSP	NYA, PHI	2022	2029	161,297,116	85,214,170	4,800,000	-71,282,946	-589,115
SO 3.3	MoSYC, MoHSP and MoIE	NYA, ASLSG, Municipalities, MoES, MoHSP, Mol, MoJ, ASCAP	2022	2029	46,270,515	5,688,239	0	-40,582,276	-335,391
Total Cost			2022	2029	373,535,404	206,221,345	4,800,000	-162,514,059	-1,343,091
Total Cost of Intersectoral Youth Strategy (Policy Goal 1 + 2 + 3)					5,570,086,793	3,956,601,251	573,090,000	-1,040,395,542	-8,598,310

Monitoring Indicators of the Strategy document

The Monitoring Indicators of the NYS will be based on the use of various key performance indicators concerning the policy goals and specific objectives of the action plan, as reflected in the latter. The NYS implementation progress will be monitored and

evaluated by periodically measuring the indicators established in line with the goals and objectives of the relevant policy. The following table reflects the Key Performance Indicators according to the three NYS policy goals.

Table 21: NYS Monitoring Indicators 2022-29

No.	Indicators	Main value	Aimed value 2029	Verification source
Policy 1 Goal: Young boys and girls take an active role in the society they live in and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Intersectoral youth policies are coordinated, based on analysis and well-funded mechanisms				
1.	Global Youth Development Index	2020 0.764/1	0.8/1	Commonwealth Annual Report "Youth Development Annual Report"
2.	% of young people who report feeling represented in youth policies implemented at the central/local level	2020 20%	80%	Specific report of the "Representation of young people in youth policies at the central and local level" study MoSYC Survey
3.	% of the state budget dedicated to youth programmes	2021 0.05%	2.4%	MoFE/ MoSYC reports
SO1.a	% of municipalities where Multifunctional Youth Centers have been established	2022 16%	100%	NYA Reports
1.1b	Number of established and operational Local Councils (at the municipality level)	2022 21 Municipalities	100%	NYA Reports
1.1c	Law "On Youth", revised and approved	2021 Unrevised law	Revised and approved law	MoSYC reports
1.1d	Law "On Volunteering", revised and approved	2021 Unrevised law	Revised and approved law	NAES, MoFE, MoSYC reports
1.2 a	Number/percentage of municipalities that have established digital youth information points	2022 2 municipalities/ 3.27%	100%	NYA Reports
1.2 b	Youth Platform "Youth for Youth" is established, operational and up to date	2021 The platform is not established	The platform is established, operational and revised	NYA Reports
1.3 a	Youth development policies designed based on analysis	2021 -	8	MoSYC, NYA data

No.	Indicators	Main value	Aimed value 2029	Verification source
Policy 2 Goal: Youth innovation and the improvement of young people's skills and professionalism are supported and encouraged by quality education in ICT and other areas of digital development, thus increasing and enhancing opportunities to enter the labour market.				
		2021		
2.1.a	Youth participation rate in the labour market by gender	52.5% of young people, of which 58.6% are men and 46.3% are women	60% of young people	INSTAT data
2.2.a	Number of young people who participated in educational exchange/mobility programmes	2021 4347 young people	Upward trend	NASRI, NAES, MoES data
		2021		
2.3.a	Youth unemployment rate (%) by gender	20.9% of young people, of which 20.5% are men and 21.4% are women	18.3% of young people	INSTAT data
2.3.b	% of youth involved in employment promotion programs	2021 45%	Upward trend	NAES Reports
2.3.c	% of young people who have started their business with a financial support from the state.	2019 26%	5% increase compared to the previous year	Study reports carried out by the MoSYC, MoFE
No.	Indicators	Main value	Aimed value 2029	Verification source
Policy Goal 3: Active, healthy, physical, social, and mental wellbeing of young people Young people safety, protection, and inclusion in all their diversity, especially for those at risk of danger or social exclusion (vulnerability)				
3	Youth Progress Index	2020 68.49/100	55/100	European Youth Forum Annual Report
3.2.a	% of young people who report adopting healthy lifestyles	2021 -	5% increase compared to the previous year	Survey conducted by the MoSYC
3.2.b	% of health centers equipped with youth-friendly environments	2021 -	5% increase compared to the previous year	MoHSP data
3.2.c	% of public servants trained on providing youth-friendly services	2021 -	5% increase compared to the previous year	MoHSP; ASPA data

2022-2029 NYS ACTION PLAN

POLICY GOAL I: Youth take an active role in society and feel empowered to speak up for themselves. Youth cross-sectoral policies are coordinated, analysis-based and have properly-funded mechanisms.

No.	Specific Objective	Responsible institutions		Implementation timeline		Indicative cost			Coverage source until 2029						Financial Gap	
		Leading institution	Contributing institutions	Strating Date	Ending Date	Current	Capital	Total Costs	MTBP			Foreign funding				
									Current	Capital	Total SB	Current	Capital	Total FF		
1.1	Specific Objective 1: Well-informed youth about the opportunities to learn, gain organizational experience and volunteer, as well as about actively participating in the civic, social and political spheres	MoSYC, NYA	NAES, LSGUs, CEC, MoES	2022	2029											
1.1.1	1.1.1 Measure 1: The Law "On Youth" is revised to consolidate and further develop the processes of establishing youth organizations, youth representation, youth work, and providing adequate and youth-friendly services.	MoSYC	NYA	2022	2024	9,570,840	0	9,570,840			4,830,840			1,140,000		-3,600,000
1.1.2	1.1.2 Measure 2: Strengthened mechanisms (at both central and local level) to guarantee the participation and consultation of young people in decision-making.	MoSYC	NYA, ASLSG, LSGUs	2023	2029	34,701,722	0	34,701,722			501,522			0		-34,200,200
1.1.3	1.1.3 Measure 3: Sharing information and guidelines via the "Youth for Youth" platform and other forms of social communication to increase the participation of young people in decision-making processes.	MoSYC	NYA, NAES, NAIS	2023	2029	39,426,240	264,500	39,690,740			10,180,800			0		-29,509,940
1.1.4	1.1.4 Measure 4: The NYA supports young people and/or youth organizations as well as local government units in setting up the infrastructure for youth centers and youth spaces through a grant program.	MoSYC	MoFE, NYA	2022	2029	621,584,000	400,000,000	1,021,584,000			914,904,000			11,350,000		-95,330,000
1.1.5	1.1.5 Measure 5: Encouraging the creation of a supportive school environment for all students and supporting participation in Student councils/Student governments and other student organizations.	NYA	MoES	2023	2029	51,500,000	0	51,500,000			0			1,800,000		-49,700,000
1.1.6	1.1.6 Measure 6: Raising political awareness of young people, especially among girls and young women, by supporting voter education programs and other awareness-raising initiatives.	CEC	MoSYC	2023	2029	38,927,503	0	38,927,503			144,706			0		-38,782,797
1.1.7	1.1.7 Measure 7: Promoting and supporting the right of young boys and girls to equality and inclusion to self-express their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.	NYA	MoHSP	2023	2029	11,524,541	0	11,524,541			1,444,541			0		-10,080,000
1.1.8	1.1.8 Measure 8: Revising the law "On Volunteering" to strengthen the opportunities for youth volunteering.	MoSYC	MoFE, NAES	2022	2023	1,678,096	0	1,678,096			418,096			0		-1,260,000
1.1.9	1.1.9 Measure 9: In accordance with the legislation and DCM on the recognition of work experience and informal and non-formal learning, competencies acquired through non-formal education and youth work are recognized based on the definitions of youth work occupations by the National Qualifications Framework and in coordination with the European Youth Work Portfolio.	MoSYC	NYA, NAES, MoFE, NAVETQ	2022	2023	1,335,399	0	1,335,399			3,399			0		-1,332,000
Indicative Cost of Objective 1.1						810,248,341	400,264,500	1,210,512,841	0	0	932,427,904	0	0	14,290,000	-263,794,937	
1.2	Specific Objective 2: Ensuring youth policy is coordinated, based on analysis and harmonized across different sectors, aiming at achieving resource cohesion and optimization and consolidating the National Youth Agency as the policy implementation body.	MoSYC, NYA	MoFE, Line Ministries	2022	2029											
1.2.1	1.2.1 Measure 1: The NYA implementing, coordinating, and monitoring roles are reinforced by strengthening its financial and human resources to ensure the implementation of the sectoral youth policies provided in this strategy.	MoSYC	NYA	2022	2029	86,859,780	1,322,500	88,182,280			3,009,300			0		-85,172,980
1.2.2	1.2.2 Measure 2: The NYA provides funds to increase Albania's presence in youth policy-making processes at regional, European and global levels.	MoSYC	NYA	2023	2029	426,681,918	264,500	426,946,418			291,533,118			3,600,000		-131,813,300
1.2.3	1.2.3 Measure 3: Based on the "Youth for Youth" concept, support and information services are developed and applied for youth and young people. This portal provides an informative and service platform for young people and/or youth organizations to support their training, employment, education, well-being, development, and engagement.	NYA	NAES	2023	2029	18,222,054	17,710,000	35,932,054			7,502,054			0		-28,430,000
1.2.4	1.2.4 Measure 4: Capacity building of policy-makers and civil servants in the field of youth and youth policy implementation based on the concept of providing young boys and girls with friendly and adequate services and strengthening regional and international collaboration in the youth policies field.	MoSYC	NYA, NAES, ASPA	2022	2029	117,475,350	0	117,475,350			325,150			98,400,000		-18,750,200
Cost of Specific Objective 1.2						649,239,102	19,297,000	668,536,102	0	0	302,369,622	0	0	102,000,000	-264,166,480	

1.3	Specific Objective 3: Encouraging the development of youth studies and youth-related data as part of study programs in higher education institutions and as references for further developments in the field of youth.	MoSYC, NYA	MoSPE, INSTAT	2023	2029										
1.3.1	1.3.1 Measure 1: Strengthened youth research as an academic and scientific field leads to establishment of statistical and research databases for the Albanian youth and scientific youth research at both national and international levels is enhanced	MoSYC	INSTAT, NYA, HEI, NAES	2022	2029	109,271,820	529,000	109,800,820	0			0			-109,800,820
1.3.2	1.3.2 Measure 2: Youth development policies are built on factual and documentary analysis	MoSYC	MoFE, NAES, INSTAT	2022	2023	10,503,968	0	10,503,968	135,972			0			-10,367,996
1.3.2	1.3.3 Measure 3: The youth organizations database is developed pursuant to the Law "On Youth" and related DCMs, also benefiting from public services digitalization processes.	NYA	MoSYC, MoFE, NAIS	2022	2029	39,852,930	0	39,852,930	23,420,930			0			-16,432,000
Cost of Specific Objective 1.3						159,628,718	529,000	160,157,718	0	0	23,556,902	0	0	0	-136,600,816
Total cost of Policy Goal I (Specific Objectives 1.1+1.2+1.3)						1,619,116,161	420,090,500	2,039,206,661	0	0	1,258,354,428	0	0	116,290,000	-664,562,233

* Strategic development (to be identified following measure completion): stage ii

** Budget programs to be identified for each measure/recommendation: stage i

POLICY GOAL II: Innovation, Education, Autonomy, Equity: Supporting and encouraging youth innovation and enhancement of youth skills and professionalism through quality education in ICT and other digital development fields, thus increasing the number of and improving the opportunities to enter the labour market.

No.	Specific Objective	Responsible institutions		Implementation timeline		Indicative cost			Coverage source until 2029						Financial Gap
		Leading institution	Contributing institutions	Strating Date	Ending Date	Current	Capital	Total Costs	Current	MTBP		Foreign funding			
										Capital	Total SB	Current	Capital	Total FF	
2.1	Specific Objective 1: Skilled and well-informed youth about employment opportunities and capable of making autonomous choices when joining the economically-active population.	MoSYC, MoFE, NAES	MoES, MoSPE, NYA, MoES, RASH, LSGUs, MoIE	2022	2029										
2.1.1	2.1.1 Measure 1: Align the National Employment and Skills Policy with the measures proposed under the National Youth Strategy, increasing the youth employability level and entrepreneurship through the engagement and interaction of local youth councils, enterprises and start-ups.	MoSYC	NYA, NAES, MoFE	2022	2029	28,205,086	839,346,000	867,551,086	405,982,286					435,000,000	-26,568,800
2.1.2	2.1.2 Measure 2: Encourage and enhance youth employment in ICT and digitalization through coding, ICT and digitalization learning programs based on market studies and employment development in this area, in Albania and beyond.	MoSYC	NYA, NAES	2022	2029	17,753,136	0	17,753,136	5,710,656					0	-12,042,480
2.1.3	2.1.3 Measure 3: Deliver innovative and digital youth-friendly employment counseling and career orientation services at educational and training institutions, ensuring fair and equitable opportunities to achieve full youth potential.	NAES	NYA, MoSPE, MoFE, MoES, RASH, MoSYC	2023	2029	73,436,000	2,070,000	75,506,000	72,140,000					0	-3,366,000
2.1.4	2.1.4 Measure 4: Promote and strengthen innovation through youth enterprises and entrepreneurship by making youth innovation the focus of the legal framework and public policies on Start-Ups, employment policies and supporting initiatives such as co-working spaces.	MoSPE	NYA, MoSYC, MoES, RASH, LSGUs, NAES	2023	2026	1,204,356,000	414,000	1,204,770,000	1,200,000,000					0	-4,770,000
2.1.5	2.1.5 Measure 5: Improve programs and services providing support for youth mobility, and their collaboration nationally and beyond.	MoSYC	MoIE	2023	2026	21,042,304	0	21,042,304	2,130,303					0	-18,912,001
2.1.6	2.1.6 Measure 6: Facilitate interurban public transport for youth, increasing their mobility in the counties.	MoSYC	MoIE, LSGUs	2024	2029	97,247,894	0	97,247,894	551,894					0	-96,696,000
Cost of Specific Objective 2.1						1,442,040,421	841,830,000	2,283,870,421	0	0	1,686,515,139	0	0	435,000,000	-162,355,282

3.1.1	3.1.1 Measure 1: Coordinating the implementation of National Protection and Security Strategies and programmes, with a special focus on the online virtual presence of youth, establishment of safe spaces, cybercrime and online bullying.	MoSYC	NYA, MoI, MoD, MoJ, MoES, NAIS, NAECCS, AMA, Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights	2023	2029	21,452,835	1,150,000	22,602,835	4,326,834	0	-18,276,001				
3.1.2	3.1.2 Measure 2: Reinforcing programmes addressing the issues of security threats to trafficked youth, dangers from different forms of crime, prevention and combatting of gender-based sexual violence and intimate partner violence against young women, and prevention of human/youth trafficking.	MoI	General Police Directorate	2023	2029	11,097,172	0	11,097,172	4,845,940	0	-6,251,232				
3.1.3	3.1.3 Measure 3: Reinforcing programmes enabling youth engaged in violent or radicalized groups to leave such circumstances, proposing so-called exit strategies.	MoSYC	NYA, MoI, LSGUs	2023	2029	1,415,589	0	1,415,589	47,586	0	-1,368,003				
3.1.4	3.1.4 Measure 4: Promoting programmes for youth detained or imprisoned by establishing reintegration and support mechanisms to develop employment skills and to ensure integration through community work, psychological support and social enterprises.	MoJ	MoSYC, MoHSP, LSGUs	2025	2029	10,084,980	0	10,084,980	10,084,980	0	0				
3.1.5	3.1.5 Measure 5: Enhancing programmes addressing irregular migration and human trafficking with youth-specific, youth-friendly and acceptable approaches, focusing on the prevention of such phenomena and the return of youth to school, training or work.	MoSYC	NYA, MoI	2023	2029	16,151,197	0	16,151,197	13,596	0	-16,137,601				
3.1.6	3.1.6 Measure 6: Reinforcing youth programs focused on human and minority rights, gender equality, diversity acceptance, tolerance and non-violent communication.	MoSYC	NYA, MoI	2023	2029	67,768,000	0	67,768,000	61,000,000	0	-6,768,000				
3.1.7	3.1.7 Measure 7: Developing and enhancing programmes and youth activities addressing issues of different forms of discrimination against socio-cultural, religious, sexual and other identities.	MoSYC	NYA, MoES, MoHSP	2023	2029	36,848,000	0	36,848,000	35,000,000	0	-1,848,000				
Cost of Specific Objective 3.1						164,817,773	1,150,000	165,967,773	0	0	115,318,936	0	0	0	-50,648,837
3.2	3.2 Specific Objective 2: Providing youth with friendly health services and ensuring that they follow healthy lifestyles, particularly as regards their mental, social, physical and sexual health and well-being.	MoSYC and MoHSP	NYA, PHI	2022	2029										
3.2.1	3.2.1 Measure 1: Aligning the 2021-2030 National Health Strategy, 2021-2026 Agenda for Children, action plans and other related strategies with the measures proposed in the National Youth Strategy, particularly with regard to the promotion of healthy living.	MoSYC	NYA, MoHSP, ASPA	2023	2029	74,200,000	0	74,200,000	70,000,000	0	-4,200,000				
3.2.2	3.2.2 Measure 2: Developing appropriate and youth-friendly approaches at health facilities, which take into account the transition from pediatric medical facilities and services to those for adults	MoSYC	NYA, MoHSP, ASPA	2023	2029	42,600,000	0	42,600,000	3,600,000	0	-39,000,000				
3.2.3	3.2.3 Measure 3: Developing new services and improving existing ones at schools, ensuring quality of support for mental and psychological health, and supporting online mental health services on the "Youth for Youth" youth platform.	MoSYC	NYA, MoHSP	2023	2029	9,456,475	0	9,456,475	699,114	4,800,000	-3,957,361				
3.2.4	3.2.4 Measure 4: Ensuring admission of youth in appropriate services of prevention and promotion under the 2022-2030 National Action Plan on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, in order to ensure that youth living in Albania receive general education/information in an appropriate and youth-friendly manner.	MoHSP	NYA, MoSYC	2023	2029	19,414,601	0	19,414,601	2,489,016	0	-16,925,585				
3.2.5	3.2.5 Measure 5: Proposing and carrying out activities related to dangerous behaviors and drug use, ensuring the provision of comprehensive information and education to youth. Ensuring access of youth to appropriate preventive interventions and addiction treatment services.	MoSYC	NYA, MoHSP	2023	2029	15,626,040	0	15,626,040	8,426,040	0	-7,200,000				
Cost of Specific Objective 3.2						161,297,116	0	161,297,116	0	0	85,214,170	0	0	4,800,000	-71,282,946
3.3	3.3 Specific Objective 3: Youth are supported with their inclusion and integration in society, providing them with housing and leisure opportunities (in culture, art and sport).	MoSYC	NYA, ASLSG, Municipalities, MoES, MoHSP, MoI, MoJ, ASCAP	2022	2029										
3.3.1	3.3.1 Measure: Supporting the construction, repair and renovation of public spaces designated for youth, to improve youth access to safe assembly and leisure spaces.	MoSYC	NYA, MoI, ASLSG, LSGUs	2022	2029	1,124,199	0	1,124,199	3,399	0	-1,120,800				
3.3.2	3.3.2 Measure 2: Supporting inclusion programmes and inclusion, safety, and protection policies, with particular focus on youth	MoSYC	NYA, MoES, MoHSP, MoI, MoJ, ASLSG, ASCAP, LSGUs	2022	2029	42,638,976	1,322,500	43,961,476	5,600,000	0	-38,361,476				
3.3.3	3.3.3 Measure 3: Supporting and promoting the government programme for housing financial assistance for new families and, in cooperation with central and local governmental actors, as well as donor organizations, urging the development of other programmes to the benefit of new families and couples.	MoSYC	MoI	2027	2029	1,184,840	0	1,184,840	84,840	0	-1,100,000				
Cost of Specific Objective 3.3						44,948,015	1,322,500	46,270,515	0	0	5,688,239	0	0	0	-40,582,276
Total cost of Policy Goal III (Specific Objectives 3.1+3.2+3.3)						371,062,904	2,472,500	373,535,404	0	0	206,221,345	0	0	4,800,000	-162,514,059
Total Cost of the Action Plan = PG I + PG II + PG III						4,305,693,793	1,264,393,000	5,570,086,793	0	0	3,956,601,251	0	0	573,090,000	-1,040,395,542



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