



European Training Foundation



YOUTH IN FOCUS

Youth at the heart of the ETF



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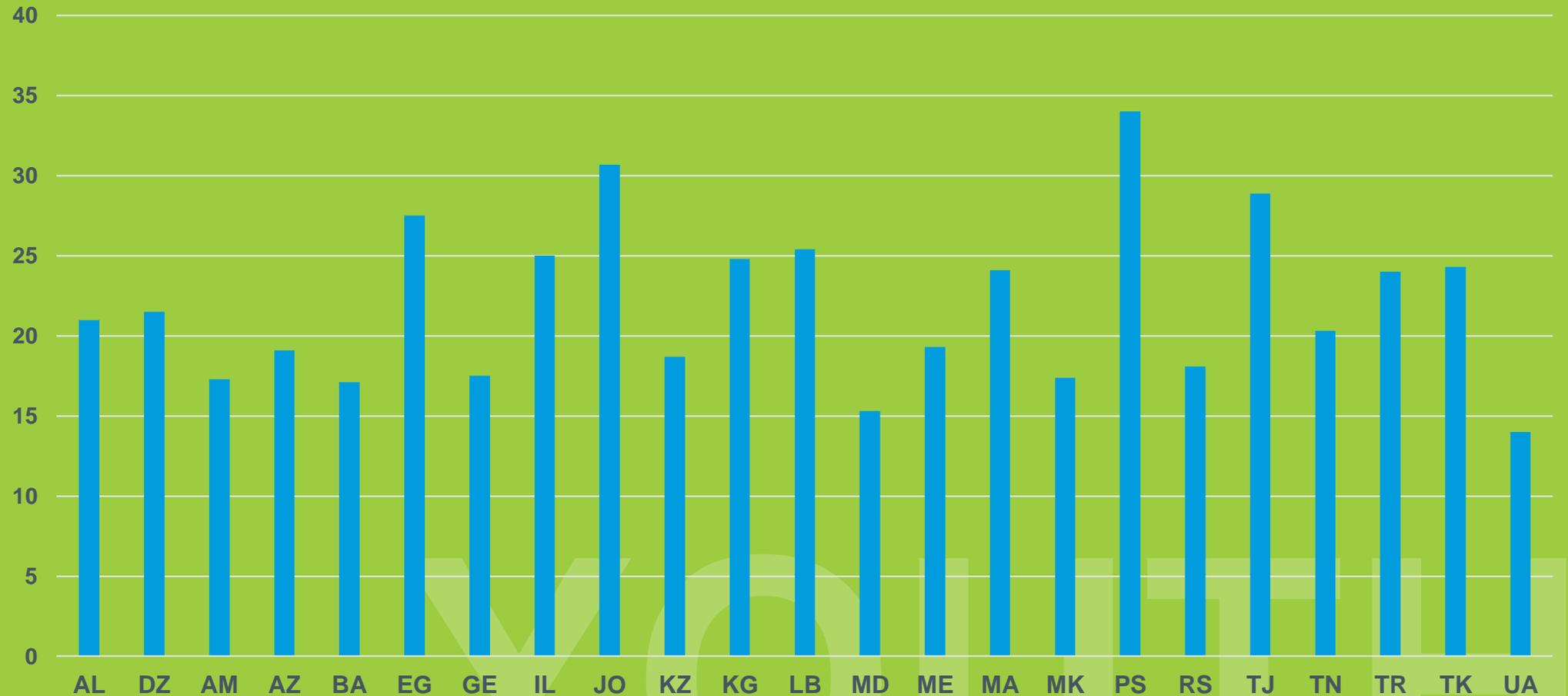
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YOUTH IN EU NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

Share of young people (15-24) in the population aged 15-64



Source: UN Population Division estimates (2020)



YOUTH IN EUROPE AND BEYOND: THE CHALLENGES

Global pandemic and economic crisis – unprecedented challenges

- Learning crisis
- Digital divide
- Education in emergency
- (Post)conflict and fragile contexts
- Volatile economic and labour market evolution

Not in education, employment or training - a worrying phenomenon

- 1 in 10 of EU youth population
- Nearly 1 in 5 of the youth population in the Western Balkans and Turkey (SEET)
- Nearly 1 in 4 of the youth population in the Eastern Partnership region (EaP)
- Around 1 in 3 of the youth population in the South Mediterranean region (SEMED)

Youth are not just the future...they are here now!

- Prioritisation needed **now** to build skills that match requirements of the labour market
- Produce citizens who are actively engaged in civil society
- Empowering the youth of today to be the leaders of the future



Listen to the ETF Skills Factory podcast: “NEETs, what’s the problem?”

“It is essential to invest in empowering young people and invest in education, so they can learn the skills necessary to create a sustainable and stable future.”

Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner,
International Partnerships

YOUTH

YOUTH AT THE HEART OF THE ETF

Youth is at the heart of the ETF mandate:



“The ETF supports EU partner countries to develop and strengthen lifelong learning systems that can enable people to develop their skills, competences, knowledge and attitudes throughout their lives in order to realise their full potential and to contribute to prosperous, innovative and inclusive societies”



By intervening on the ‘skills, the competences, the knowledge and the attitudes’ of young people, the ETF works across a wide spectrum of youth-related areas



By focusing on policies that enable a successful transition from school to work, career progress and social inclusion, the ETF plays a key role in helping youth in EU partner countries to reach their full potential

**THE ETF IS
ABOUT
EMPOWERING
YOUTH!**



YOUTH AT THE HEART OF THE ETF

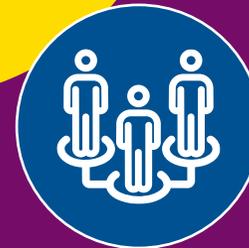
Connecting the dots in the Youth Ecosystem



ETF and
“Youth in Focus”



Collaborating with ETF partner countries to put young people centre stage



Supporting the implementation of EU youth policies on skills and transition to work

YOUTH IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT



UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are critical to youth development

- UNDESA estimates that approximately 90 of the 232 indicators developed to measure implementation of the SDGs are relevant to young people

Key SDG's for youth empowerment and youth development

- SDG 1 on combatting poverty
- SDG 2 on hunger
- SDG 3 on good health
- SDG 4 on quality education
- SDG 5 on gender
- SDG 8 decent work and economic growth
- SDG 10 on reducing inequality
- SDG 13 on climate action

YOUTH IN THE EU CONTEXT



EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027 “Engage, Connect, Empower”

11 European Youth Goals focused on:

- Quality education and lifelong learning
- Formal and non-formal learning
- High quality jobs
- Capacity of educators
- Skills development
- Recognition and validation of competences
- Environmental and sustainable development

EACEA (European Education and Culture Executive Agency)

- Youth Wiki platform
- Database of European countries' youth policies

EU Youth Policies and programmes

- The EU Youth Guarantee to ensure young people under 30 receive a good quality offer of Continued Education, Apprenticeship, Traineeship or Employment
- Erasmus+
- European Solidarity Corps

ALMA

- Helping young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs) to enter the job market by combining support for education, vocational training or employment in their home country with a work placement in another EU country
- European Youth Portal (europa.eu)
– a dedicated web portal

YOUTH IN THE EU CONTEXT



European Year of Youth – 2022

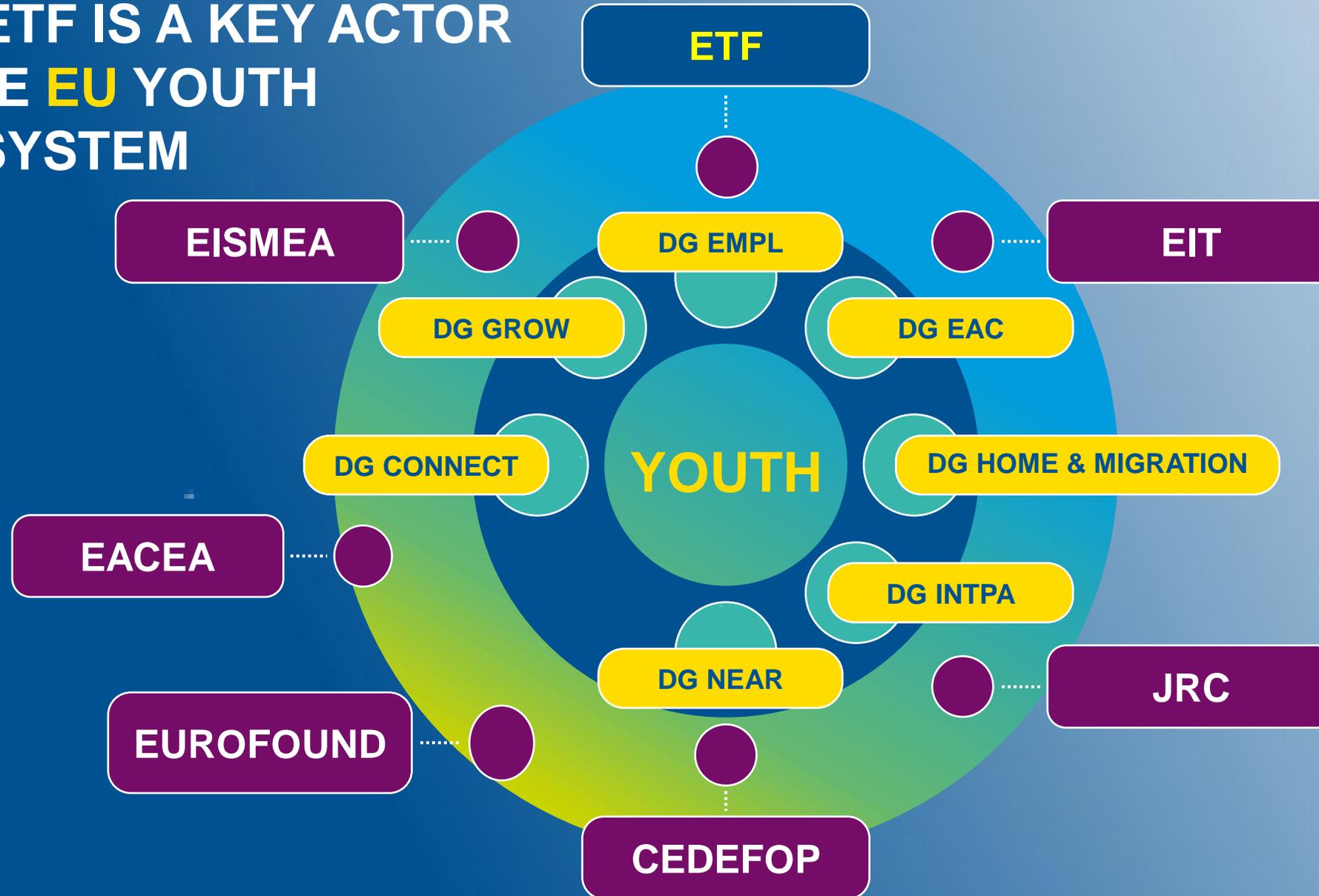
Emphasises the role of young people to build a better, greener, more inclusive and digital future

Four main objectives:

- Redress the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and emphasise the opportunities, including a more green and digital future
- Supporting young people, especially from disadvantaged, vulnerable and marginalised groups to become active and engaged citizens
- Supporting young people to acquire a better understanding of opportunities available to them to support their personal, social and professional development
- Raising the profile and debate of youth among policy-makers, in line with the EU Youth Strategy 2019-2027

“Activate Youth”, the call for active youth participation by Tirana, the European Youth Capital for 2022.

THE ETF IS A KEY ACTOR IN THE **EU** YOUTH ECOSYSTEM



YOUTH CROSS-CUTTING THE ETF'S POLICY AREAS



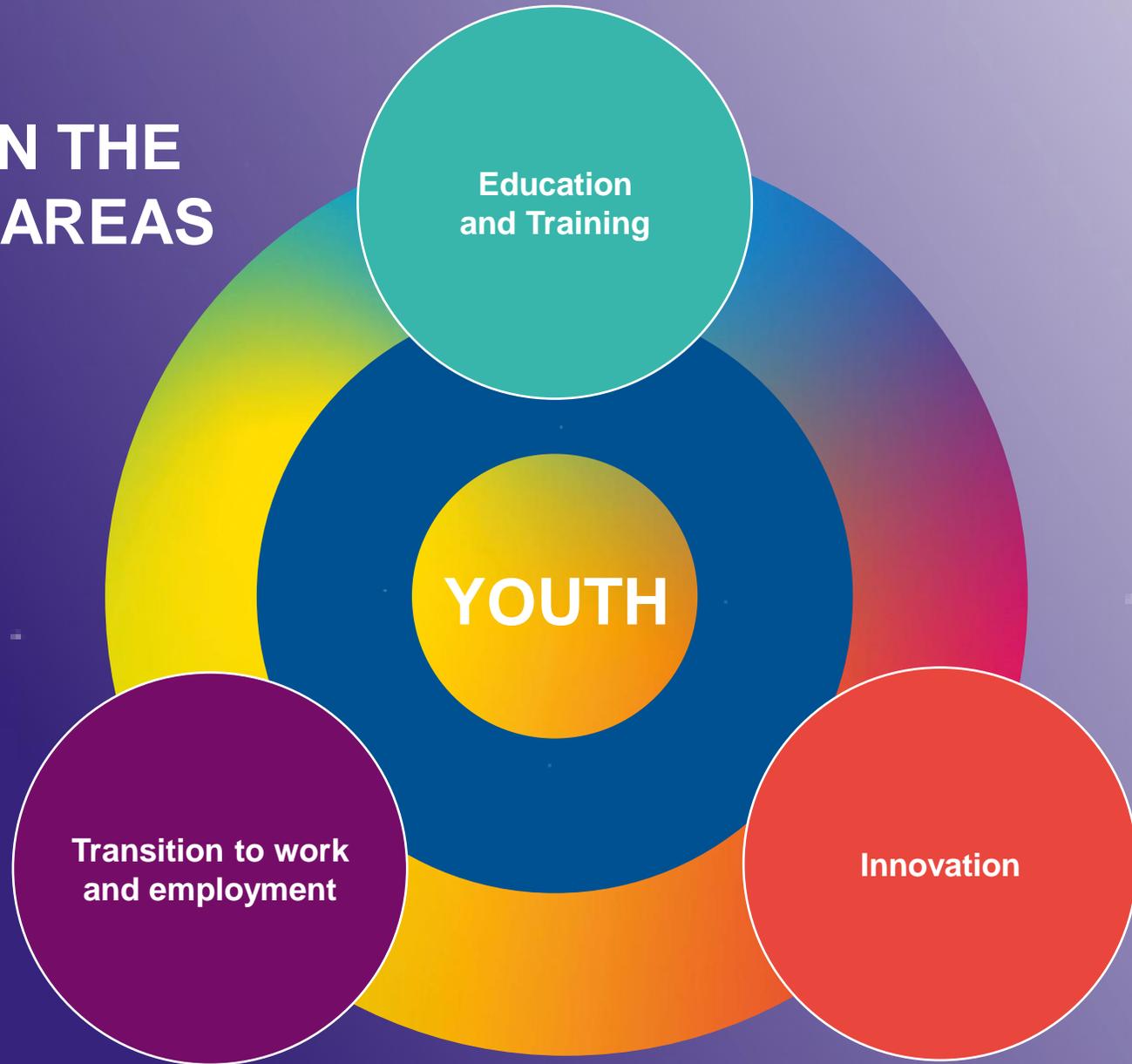
Youth is transversal at the ETF:

- Gender
- Aspirations of young people
- Youth and the Green Transition
- Opportunities for youth from new forms of work and in promising economic sectors
- Competences of young migrants
- Education of youth in post-conflict zones
- Fostering Youth employment partnerships
- Developing career guidance systems
- Addressing high rates of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs)
- Labour market needs post-pandemics and conflictual situations
- Youth Entrepreneurship
- New forms of work and emerging opportunities in economic sectors



Listen to the ETF Skills Factory podcast: "NEETs, what's the problem?"

THE YOUTH ECOSYSTEM IN THE ETF's POLICY AREAS





Education and Training



ETF's focus and expertise:

Forward looking education and training policies

Performance based policy making and governance

Career guidance and counselling

Modernisation and flexibilisation of qualifications and qualification systems

Work-based learning, fostering school-business cooperation

Upskilling and reskilling for young workers and jobseekers



Transition to work and employment

ETF's focus and expertise:

Skills demand analysis and forecasting

Integrated policy frameworks enabling youth transition from school to work

Career development support systems and services

Traineeships and apprenticeships

Active Labour Market Policies relevant for young people

New forms of employment and platform work

Youth migration and skills dimension



Innovation



ETF's focus and expertise:

Skills development for smart specialisation strategies and innovation

Fostering entrepreneurial mindsets and entrepreneurship initiatives

Innovating teaching and learning

Promoting excellence in VET

Digitalisation of education and labour markets

ETF AND “YOUTH IN FOCUS”



Working together for a **youth-focused** future:

Policy advice and **targeted interventions** to support countries in the EU’s neighbouring regions to bring about employment and labour market reforms aimed at youth, including those from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups



Supporting skills development to ensure inclusion in the **digital and green transitions**

Supporting **peer networks and partnerships** to link VET to labour market requirements, **greening** school and VET programmes, promoting **innovative teaching and learning** (including digital inclusion) to ensure the development of skills for a sustainable future



Making **systems work for everyone**

Promoting **quality assurance in VET** and providing support to develop national and regional **qualifications frameworks and standards**

WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE AND TURKEY (SEET)

Youth related priority areas of intervention at regional level recommended by ETF:

- Need for a long-term strategy to support the transition into a post-pandemic economy marked by digitalisation and greening
- Reform VET by focusing on technology, sectoral and cross-sectoral skills programmes, competences for a sustainable and entrepreneurial economy
- Consolidate initial and continuing education and training systems fostering relevant skills, partnerships with companies and civil society as well as providing opportunities for all
- Re-design unemployment insurance and rules for accessing active labour market programmes and implement comprehensive policy packages for enabling school to work transition and fighting youth joblessness

ETF work in the region

- Support for the design and gradual deployment of Youth Guarantee schemes in Implementation Plans in the six Western Balkan countries; adaptation of YG monitoring framework;
- Contribute to peer learning and exchanges organised in the framework of EC, ILO, ETF Technical Assistance Facility for Youth Guarantee
- Fostering participation in the European Alliance for Apprenticeships, including potential for Youth Guarantee and overall development of Work Based Learning opportunities and improved monitoring and evaluation
- Reviewing Career guidance and counselling systems and enabling global exchanges through participation in the Global Careers Month
- Develop intelligence on skills demand, labour market trends, skills mismatches, new forms of employment and their potential impact on employment and skills development
- Inform EU programming and funding impacting youth policies and cooperation with regional and country stakeholders, including youth representatives



ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN SEET

At the **Mihajlo Pupin Electrotechnical High School in Novi Sad (Serbia)**, students get to experiment with learning through play. As part of the ETF's **Benefits4People initiative**, the high school has implemented a programme which gives students the opportunity to recycle electronic components and use them to create new working systems including toys and ornaments.

“

We take things that would otherwise be thrown away and pollute the environment and turn them into nice gadgets that we can give to someone.

Milos Prodanovic,
ICT student

”

“

Classic teaching methods are history. This project increases the children's involvement in lessons.

Munir Rageb,
Electronics Teacher

”



WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP (EaP)

Youth-related priority areas of intervention at regional level recommended by ETF:

- Supporting youth employability and employment
- Improving education quality and its relevance to labour market needs
- Improving knowledge base around new forms of work and platform economy as opportunity paths for young people
- Improving the framework for transition support by providing career guidance and opportunities to gain first work experience

ETF work in the region

- EaP regional dialogue (ministerial meetings, expert committees) and the continued implementation of the regional EU4Youth programme
- Thematic peer exchange events and enhanced networking of public employment services (PES) for youth employment policies
- “Global careers month” - career guidance and counselling reviews and global exchanges
- Fostering participation of several EaP countries in the European Alliance for Apprenticeships



ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN EaP

At Iberia College, Tbilisi (Georgia), career guidance manager **Fati Jkidze** reaches out to employers to **create opportunities for students** as part of the ETF's Make it Match network.

Fati matches supply with demand by **asking business owners what their companies need** to perform better.

“

Vocational training is the quickest way to enter the world of work. My main aim is to be a guide, giving advice and creating opportunities for people who have completed their studies and are ready to set out on their careers with the skills they have acquired.

By getting out and finding the jobs, we can help the students get a good start and become successful people.

Fati Jkidze

”



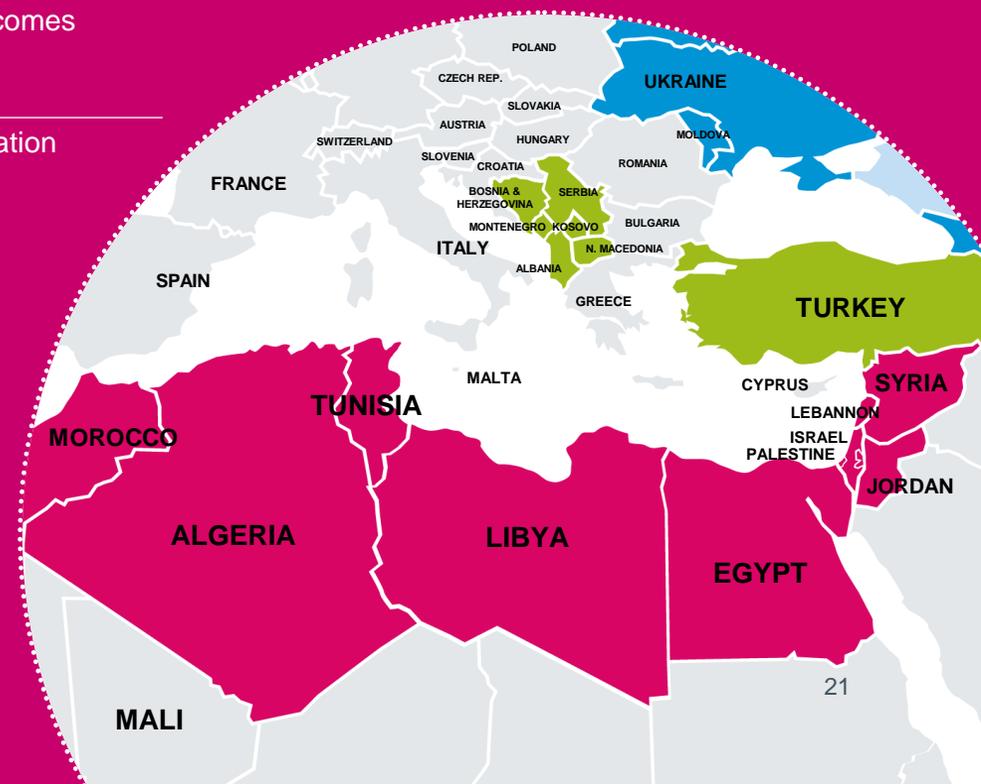
WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (SEMED)

Youth related priority areas of intervention at regional level recommended by ETF:

- Build strong skills partnerships for socio-economic prosperity and agile and resilient systems
- Establish a lifelong learning culture and reinforce education to ensure economic growth, social inclusion and digital/green transition
- Skills provision should ease labour market transition, support job creation, and reinforce inclusion
- Data for better skills anticipation and matching, and monitoring labour market outcomes

ETF work in the region:

- Contribution to knowledge creation and sharing and policy dialogue on youth activation and skilling
- Supporting the set up and running of the Community of Practice on 'Youth Employment in the Southern Mediterranean', supported by the GIZ, in collaboration with the Union for the Mediterranean and European Commission
- Contribution to UNICEF-ILO Regional study & summit on learning to earning transition (MENA)
- Provision of expertise in Palestine - youth employment programmes and transition from school to work; Jordan - ALMPs and skills mismatches; Lebanon - mainstreaming career guidance to support youth transition to work
- Fostering exchanges on career guidance and counselling (Global Careers Month)



ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN SEMED

Together with our partners the ETF has carefully **listened to young people talking about their challenges and concerns** in the era of COVID-19.

We looked at the challenges, opportunities, determinants for success and, most importantly, the views, sentiments and opinions of the **young generation** concerning their current and future prospects.

“

I decided to get involved with associations in civil society and I saw a complete change in my skills.

After that, I followed many courses for young entrepreneurs and young people to help them start their own business. **Entrepreneurship can help to train people to start their entrepreneurial life and to become change-makers**

Mokhles Mechri,
*a young entrepreneur
from Tunisia*

”



WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN CENTRAL ASIA (CA)

Youth related priority areas of intervention at regional level recommended by the ETF:

- Youth employability, skills development and performance based education and training systems
- DARYA regional initiative funded by the European Union

ETF work in the region

- Steering the implementation of DARYA – programme to support post-Covid recovery in Central Asia by fostering improved employability of young people through inclusive and labour-market oriented skills development
- Cooperation with country and international organizations on promoting youth, generation of new quantitative and qualitative evidence on youth transitions and wellbeing, and dissemination of findings
- Support for modernisation of qualification systems and foster innovative learning approaches





ETF WORKING TO SUPPORT YOUTH IN CA

Together with our partners the ETF has carefully **listened to young people talking about their challenges and concerns** in the era of COVID-19.

We looked at the challenges, opportunities and, most importantly, the views, sentiments and opinions of the **young generation** concerning their current and future prospects.

“ There used to be a problem in that we were disconnected from the labour market, our graduates were not always able to find a job. But we found the solution – to work with employers, to understand their needs, to include competences needed in the labour market.

The focus is on making training relevant for the workplace.

Nurizat Imankulova,
School Director, Lyceum 98

Kyrgyzstan

”



ETF COLLABORATION WITH KEY ACTORS



The ETF is a key EU player

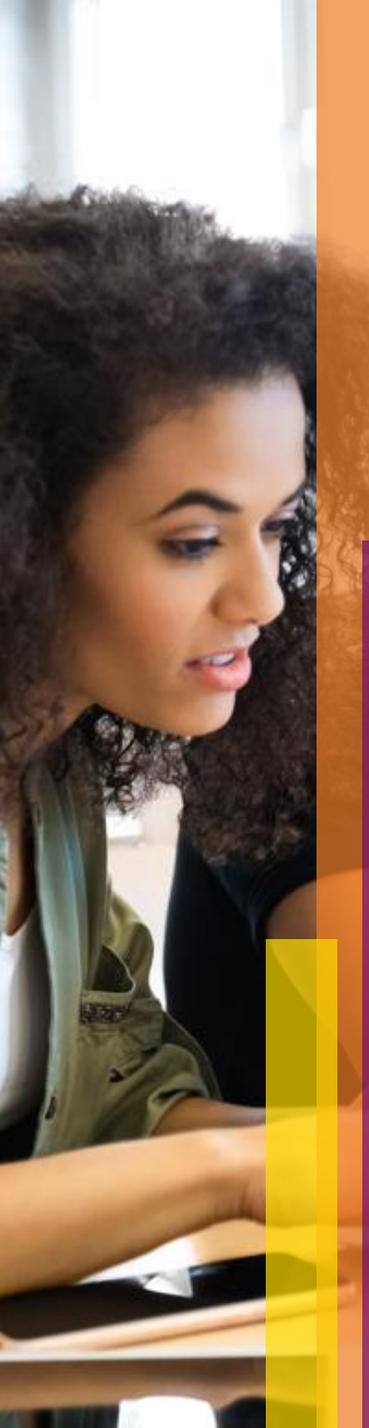
The ETF is a dynamic partner:

- Initiating and responding to youth-related policies and programmes
- Collaborating with main EC DGs and partner agencies in charge of Youth
- Seeking opportunities for joint initiatives and publications

The ETF recognises the power of collaboration.

Main collaborations in the area of youth include:

- International Labour Organization (regions and country collaboration to foster youth employment)
- UNICEF – particularly in ECA and MENA regions: generation of new evidence and promotion of policies enabling inclusive education and transition to work
- Union for the Mediterranean, Regional Cooperation Council, Regional Youth Cooperation Office (regional bodies fostering cooperation on youth among other areas in SEMED and South Eastern Europe)
- GIZ, ENABEL, Helvetas, LuxDev, Austrian Development Agency and other bilateral aid agencies implementing youth friendly programmes
- EU agencies, such as Cedefop, Eurofound, EACEA, for exchanges of methodologies and thematic intelligence



ETF “YOUTH IN FOCUS” – THE WAY AHEAD

- The ETF to articulate its work on the Youth ecosystem around the three core services:
 - Knowledge creation - youth vulnerabilities, skills and employment policies, labour market and skills demand trends impacting youth employability; performance and gaps in education and training;
 - Policy advice - for EC services and countries in the design, implementation and monitoring of youth focused initiatives. Explore and promote youth policy products and share best-practice across regions
 - Monitoring & assessment - enhance evidence on youth and incorporate into new monitoring framework
- The ETF to continue:
 - focusing on Youth, as a priority theme across all projects and country activities
 - providing targeted advice and support for testing and mainstreaming initiatives such as the Youth Guarantee in all partner countries
 - providing regular evidence on skills and labour market programmes and their impact on youth employability
 - fostering a multidimensional and integrated policy approach to the youth problematic
 - implementation of EU-supported initiatives (Youth Guarantee in Western Balkans, EU for Youth in EaP, UfM Youth Employment Community of Practice and regional project on NEETs in SEMED, DARYA programme in Central Asia)
 - informing the design of new regional and country programmes

ETF “YOUTH IN FOCUS” – THE WAY AHEAD



The European Training Foundation is the EU agency supporting countries surrounding the European Union to reform their education, training and labour market systems



Our unique role is based on the expertise of our staff, and experience gained over nearly 25 years of working hand-in-hand with government, business, and social partners in countries in and around the EU neighbourhood. Our aim is to support each country’s own process for education, training, and labour market reform, with a range of evidence-based methodologies



Effectively preparing young people to give them the skills to face the challenges that lay ahead including the green and digital transitions will be key to support their personal, social and professional development, and to ensure they become active and engaged citizens

“ By building on young people’s strengths and resilience and realising the potential of everyone, effective transitions towards greener, digital and more equitable societies will be possible.

Xavier Matheu, ETF Director ad interim





European Training Foundation

THANK YOU

www.etf.europa.eu

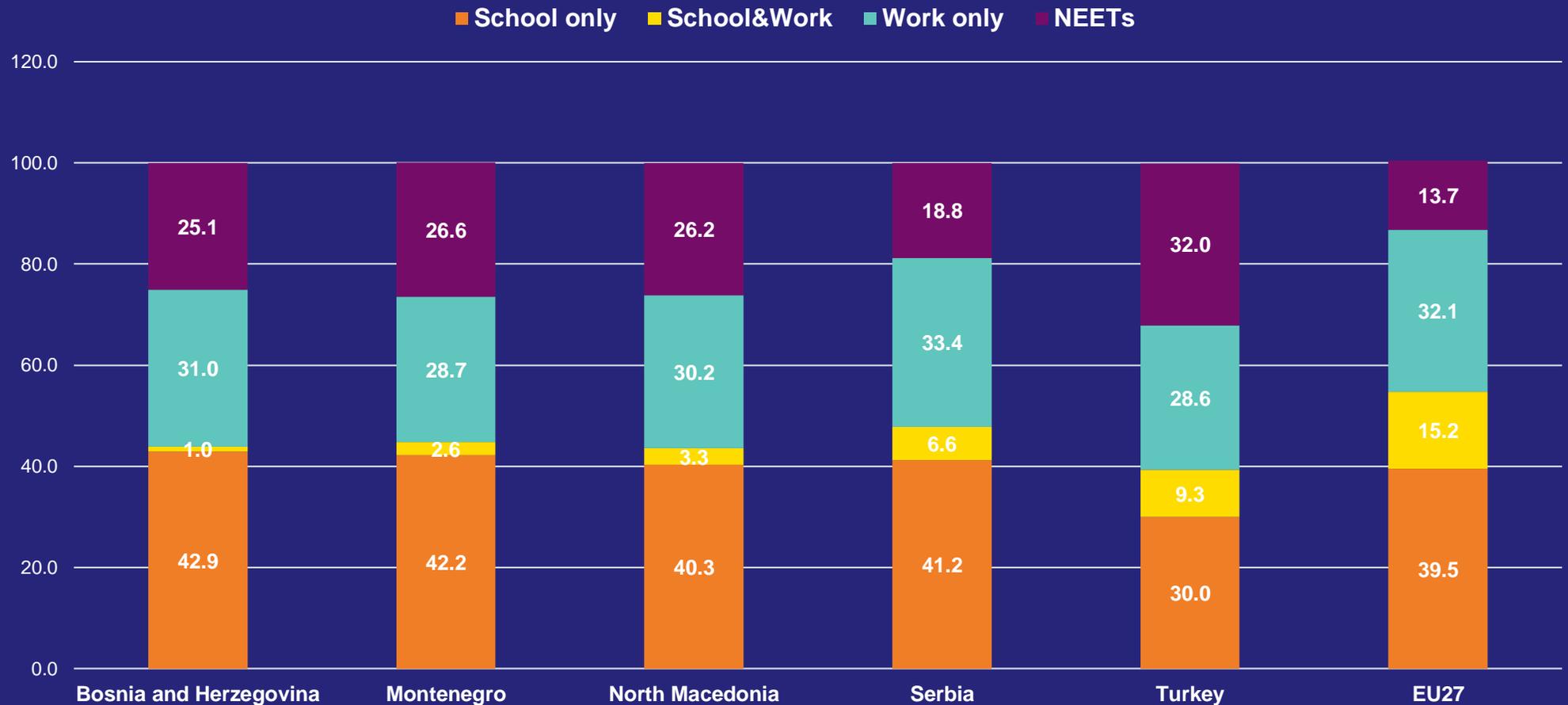


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APPENDIX:

Youth charts and statistics

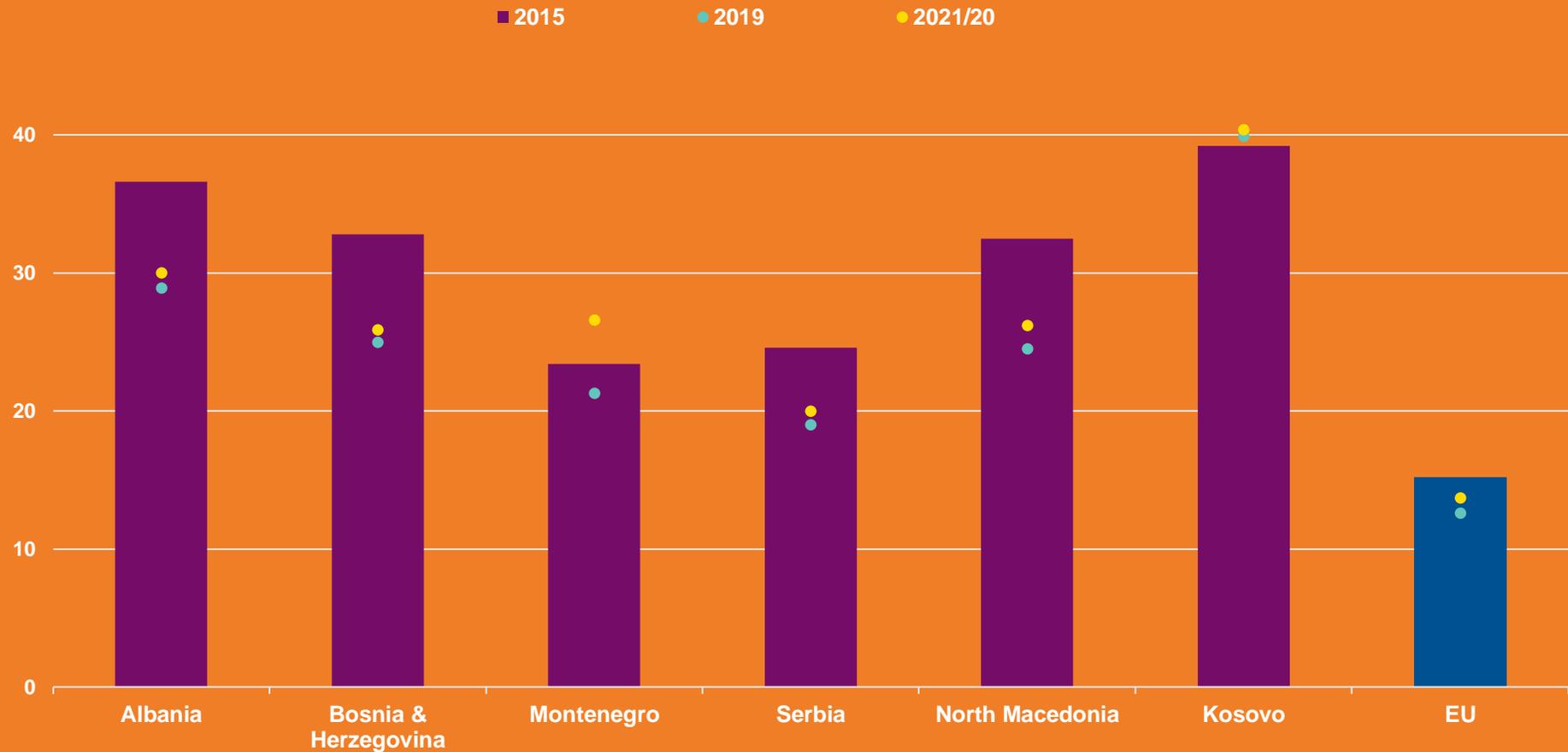
Where are young people aged 15-29 today?



Source: Eurostat (edat_ifse_18)



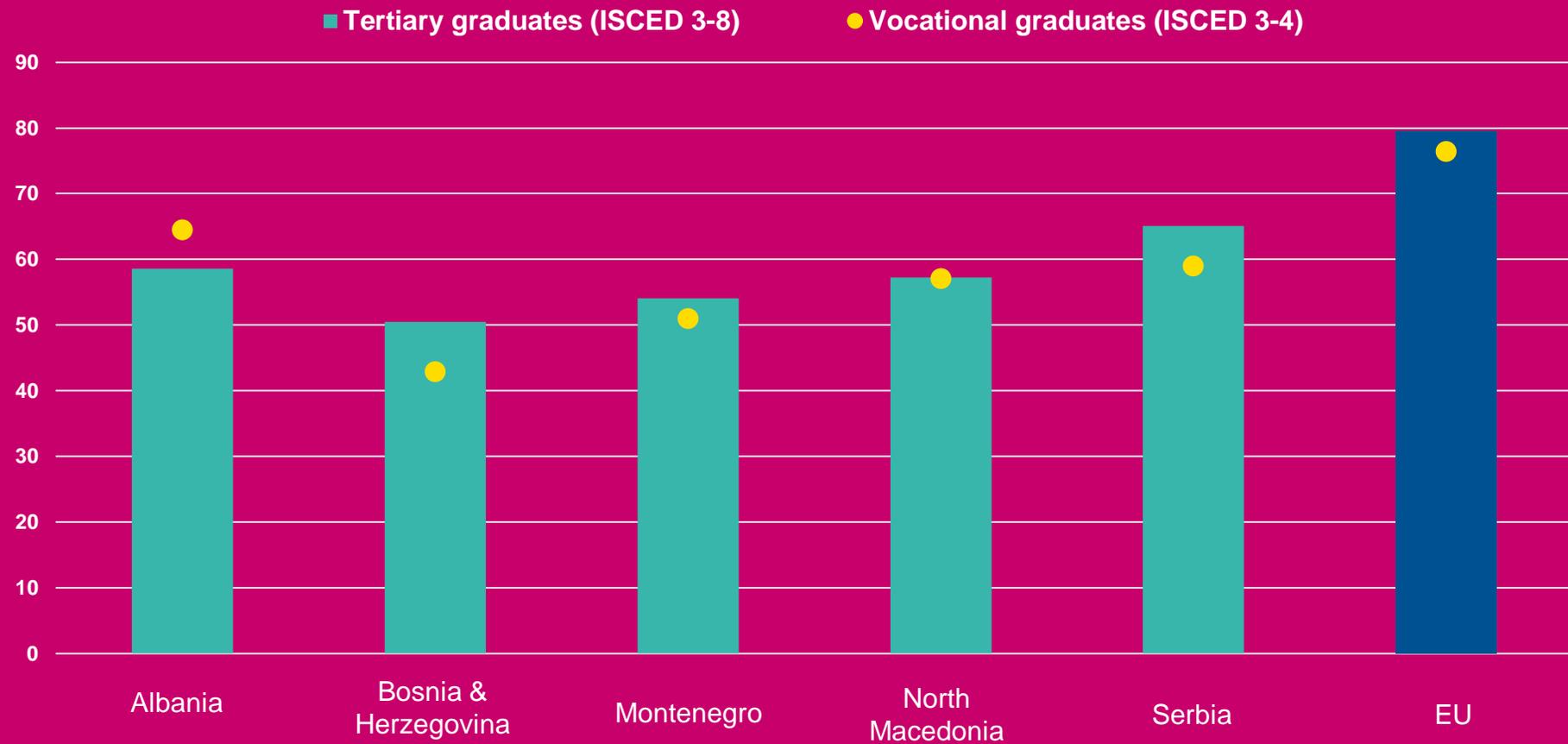
Young people not in employment, education or training (15-29, %)



Source: ETF KIESE, Eurostat



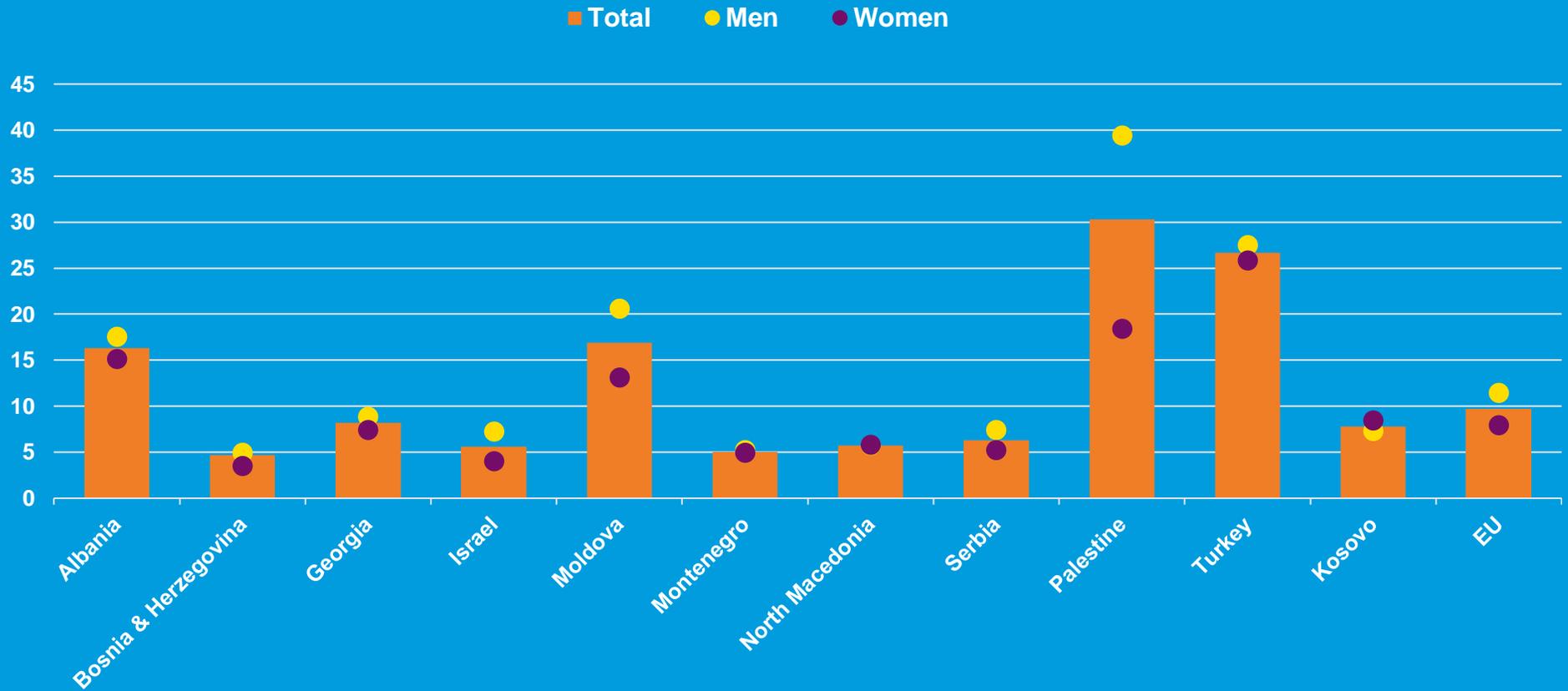
Employment rate of recent graduates aged 20-34 (2021/latest)



Source: ETF KIESE, Eurostat (edat_ifse_24)



Early leavers from education (2021/latest) (% aged 18-24)



Source: ETF database, Eurostat