



National Survey: Young People and Politics in Albania

Western Balkans
Democracy Initiative



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The views and opinions expressed in this booklet are of the authors and do not reflect those of the UK government or WFD.

Foreword

This survey aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the relationship of youth and politics in Albania. As a result of a widespread lack of trust in politics and the absence of merit-based models of advancement in politics built on fair competition, Albanian youngsters do not consider political parties as the primary tool to change the society and to advance their political skills and convictions. The findings of this study highlight a low level of youth engagement in politics. Whilst youngsters readily point at the fact that the youth ought to engage in politics, most of them clearly consider this as something that should be done by others and not by them in their personal capacity.

This survey (as part of this study) shows that youth in Albania feel shunned by politics, regardless of their political orientation and regardless of whether they live in the capital or in the suburbs. Most of the Albanian youngsters consider emigration as a solution for better paid and more inspiring jobs. Currently, most of the young people prefer working in the private sector. The findings related to the political preferences and attitudes of the youth surveyed in this study ought to be considered whilst drafting political strategies and in preparing strategies for youth mainstreaming in Albania.

1. Introduction

Albania began to build a liberal democracy in the early 90s after the fall of communism in Eastern Europe. In the last 30 years, the transition has been turbulent, and the country has gone through several severe socio-economic and political crises, that have marked different and important changes in the political arena and in law-making. These changes have impacted the society and the young generation for these 3 decades.

Currently, according to INSTAT, the average age in Albania is 35.4 years old, while the average age was 32.3, in 2010 and 24.1 years old in 1990¹.

Although there is an evident trend of population aging, which is not only an Albanian case, youth has been an important driver of change that has actively played a key role as an advocate of public interest. It was youth that started the protests and the movement against the communist regime in 1990, against the government's policy on handling the post Ponzi schemes situation during 1997, against the disposal of Syrian chemical weapons in 2014 and the students' protest against the Law on Higher Education in December 2018.

Despite the importance that youth plays in the Albanian society, many youngsters feel alienated and detached from the political system. This is one of the main hypotheses this study explores in detail.

This study aims to bring new data and fresh insights about the attitudes of Albanian youth on political system, political parties, their perceptions and trust on politics, governance and institutions. Other key aspects of the study are its focus on the behaviour of Albanian first-time voters or young voters poised to participate in the upcoming local government elections, their perceptions on the problems Albania

is facing and the level of trust they have on new and old leaders of our political parties.

The aim of this study is to provide an objective coverage of the current situation and trends of Albanian youth in relation to short and medium term political inclusion, paying attention to gender issues, demographic expectations, and social indicators in the country; to promote a national debate on youth issues; to develop realistic empowerment of national or local policies; to better understand youth capacities in relation to politics and socio-economic developments; and to draft better strategies on education and labour market.

The study was completed within May-June 2019, in a heated political context. The majority of the opposition's MPs have relinquished their parliamentary mandates, and have been protesting since February 2019, meanwhile they did not register to participate in the local elections of June 30th, 2019. Despite the political gridlock, the study was carefully crafted to measure and analyse the accessibility of youth in political system. This study has used mixed methodological tools, quantitative and qualitative to come up with useful findings and recommendations.

A national survey took place with 1,200 respondents aged 18 to 30 years old, from 7 to 31 May 2019. Throughout the period from 1 to 10 June 2019, six focus groups were organized with young people of 18 - 30 years old in six municipalities of the country, covering the three main regions (North, Middle and South Albania). The goal was to understand on a deeper level the youths' reasons for their approach towards political system, parties, politics and social phenomena in the country, that affect young people in general.

This study contains recommendations for various entities working in the youth field to develop policies and strategies in their work, enriching literature and data for all researchers, policymakers and journalists dealing with youth issues in Albania.

¹<http://www.instat.gov.al/al/temat/treguesit-demografik%C3%AB-dhe-social%C3%AB/popullsia/publikimet/2019/popullsia-e-shqip%C3%ABris%C3%AB-1-janar-2019/>

A close-up, low-angle shot of a hand holding a black pen, poised to write on a document. The hand is in the center-left of the frame. To the right, another hand is visible, resting on the document. The background shows a laptop keyboard, slightly out of focus. The entire image has a dark blue, monochromatic tint. The text '2 METHODOLOGY' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font in the center-left area.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Quantitative Method – National Survey

The national survey as part of the quantitative method of the study with a representative sample of 1200 respondents with youth (18-30 years old), distributed according to the respective population of 61 municipalities across Albania. The calculation of the exact sample size was done using the Cochran formula, using a 95% confidence level (no more than 5% margin of error), thus it is statistically significant.

A questionnaire (based on the proposed thematic areas, in cooperation with and finalized by WFD) was developed and filled out on tablets, as the easiest way to directly store the data in the statistical program (SPSS). The surveyors used the method of face to face survey based on self-declarations of respondents. A random probability sampling method was used to ensure that there was equal chance of youngsters (boys and girls) to be selected for a survey. It was guaranteed that the sample was gender representative by monitoring step by step data collection. Data collection process started in parallel with the field work.

The sampling at national and regional level is done by verifying the margin of error and staying at 95% confidence levels. Given the concentration of youth residents of other municipalities in Tirana (study and work reasons), the sample in Tirana municipality was increased.

There were two age groups whom the questions of the survey were asked; a) 18-24 years old and b) 25-30 years old. This difference allowed to better understand their attitudes according to the age group they represent.

2.2 Qualitative Method—Focus Groups

Six focus groups were conducted to validate the findings of the survey. They were carefully crafted to ensure a good geographic coverage of the country and a balance between rural and urban areas. Eight to ten young people were identified in each focus group considering a proportional and equal participation of boys and girls and fair representation of rural/urban population variables. At least 54 youngsters (50% boys and 50% girls) were part of the focus groups. Two separate sub-groups were set up according to their age group. The first of which was high school students (seniors) and those from Bachelor level studies (18-24-year olds), while the other group included young Master level students, doctoral students, and young people working in the public and private sector (25- 30-year olds). The geographical areas (municipalities) where the focus groups took place were Tirana, Shkodra, Kukës, Elbasan, Vlora and Korça. The selection was based on providing a geographical coverage (north, south, central) and a balance between rural and urban communities.



3 MAIN FINDINGS

The young people of Albania are distanced from the political parties, where the vast majority (80%) are neither engaged as political members nor as activists. A few, 10.8% are members, and only 9.2% are activists of the political parties.

The trust of respondents in other young people involved in politics is low. More than half of them (60%), do not find successful models among young people in politics, whereas 40% did find models of success. A bigger percentage (48%) see old politicians as models of success in their political careers, while 52.3% do not find old politicians as models of success.

The participation of young people in Albania in the political system is displayed at low levels. Forty (40%) percent of young people have never engaged in public hearings or in signing petitions. Twenty-three percent (23%) of respondents believe that participation and engagement in public life by young people has increased, while 37% of the respondents believe it has remained the same or has decreased.

Forty-five percent (45%) of the respondents think that other young people in political parties imitate their leader's model, while 25% think that young people inside the party do not bring any innovation to the system, and 30% think that young people do bring a new political model to their respective parties.

Most of the young people (68.8%) believe that youth should be involved with politics, 21.4% believe that the youth should not be dealing with politics and 9.8% of them do not have an opinion.

Most of the Albanian young people (64%) do not believe that politics in a central or local level is committed to them, and a small number (16%) believe that politics has youth in their focus. Whereas 20% of them are not informed.

Emigration is perceived as part of short-term and mid-term plans of 71% of the Albanian youth. In the meantime, 11% of the young people are undecided about leaving, while the other part 17.9% do not see emigration as an alternative.

Sixty-five percent (65%) of young people believe that politics is a source of work and career while 35% do not trust politics as a source of work and career.

Around half of the Albanian young people (49%) do not trust the parliament as a law-making body, 32% trust it somehow, 15% have said they trust it enough, and only 2% said that they have full trust in the role of the parliament in our country. Around 2% of them do not have an opinion on this case.

Of young people interviewed, 61% have expressed themselves against boycott as the way to solve parliamentarian problems. Around 19% of them are pro boycott, and 20% of them are indifferent to this issue.

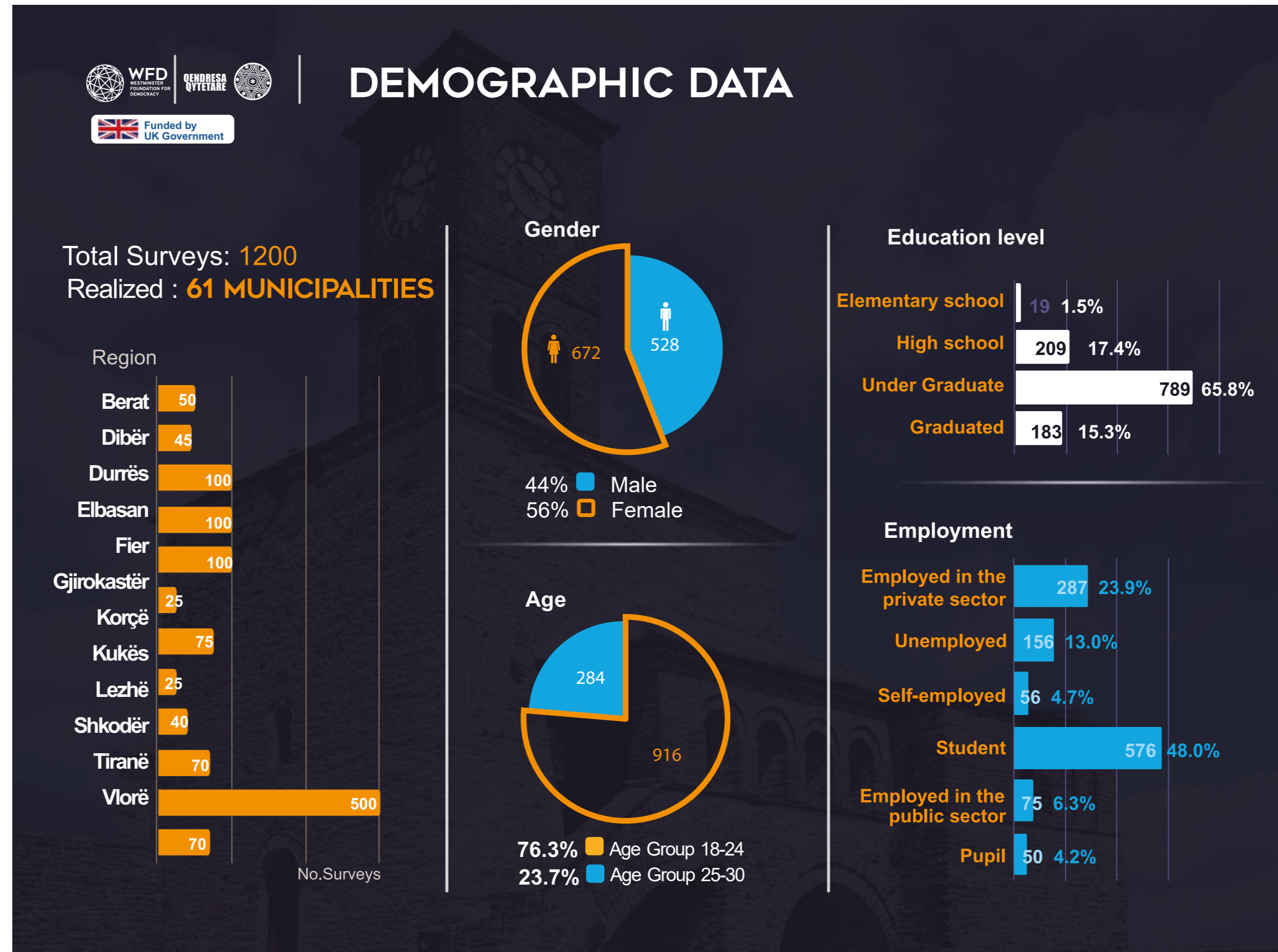
More than half of young people (54%) are informed on political issues through social media, 28% of them get information through the TV, 11% through the news portals, 3% of them are informed by their friends, and a small number (1%) are informed through the newspapers and radios. It is worth notice that youth avoid media platforms of the political parties.

4 DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE FINDINGS OF THIS STUDY

In this section there is a detailed analysis of the findings obtained from the national survey based on the feedback from young people in the focus groups conducted in six of the country's main municipalities reflected in the form of a "quote" or included in the analysis of the data according to their approaches to these issues.

4.1 Demographic Data

The national survey was conducted by developing a questionnaire with 1200 young people in 61 municipalities distributed according to the 12 regions in proportion with the number of young people in each region. Fifty-six percent (56%) of the respondents were girls and 44% of them were boys.



Graphic 1: Demographics

About 76% of the young people surveyed belong to the most active group age, 18-24, whereas 24% of them belong to the group age 25-30 years old. Regarding the education level of the respondents, 65.8% of them belong to a university education, 15.3% to a post-graduate education, 17.4% to a secondary education and only 1.5% have an 8/9-year education.

4.2 Engagement of Young People in Political System

4.2.1 Young people and Political Parties

Through this section of the questionnaire, it's worth noting that the level of youth involvement in the political system often coincides with the level of active engagement with the political parties in Albania. There is a high level of distrust in the political parties and only a small part of our respondents (16.8%) purports to trust them, 53.1% of the respondents do not trust them, and 27.5% have little faith in them, whereas 2.6% of them do not have an opinion. Nearly the same percentage, 80% of the young people, has chosen not to engage in any political party as a result of such mistrust. Almost 11 percent, (10.8%) of them accept that they are members of parties, and only 9.2% are activists in these parties.

Another interesting finding is the low level of recognition of youth policies/ programs among young people who adhere to political parties as members or as activists. More than half (57%) of the young members or activists (20% of all respondents) of the political parties have no information about their party, whether it has a special program for the youth or not. Forty-three percent (43%)

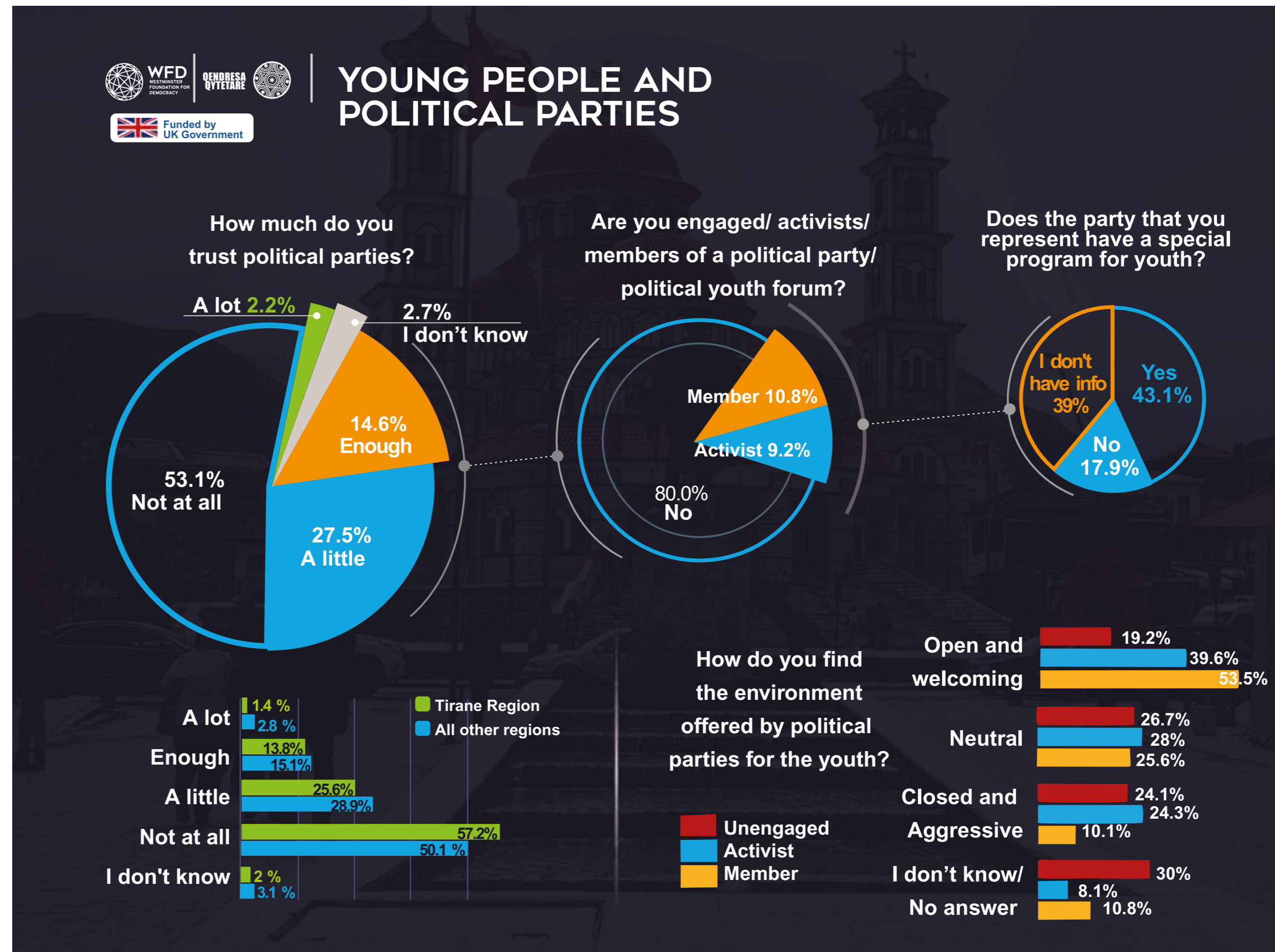
of them state that the party that they have adhered to does have a specific policy/ programme for the youth. Looking from the comparative viewpoint, there is a kind of balance between the perceptions of young people living in other regions and young residents in Tirana despite the greater proximity of the latter to the political arena.

Meanwhile, concerning their perception of the space offered to them by the parties, young people are somehow divided. Twenty-four percent (24%) of them think that parties offer an open and friendly space for them, whereas a significant part (23%) thinks that this space is closed and aggressive. The remaining part (53%), considers the political environment generated by the parties as rather neutral, or has no opinion on the matter. It should be noted that 53.5% of the youngsters that consider the current political environment as open and accessible are actual party members, whilst only 10% consider this environment as close and hostile.



Quotes chosen from the focus groups with the young people

“Although I do not see alternatives, I have been voting, and I will vote for the least evil.” “I will vote because it is a constitutional right.” “Silence is to accept the status-quo.” “I will not vote in the upcoming elections because I do not see any alternative. I voted 3 times and I did not feel represented.” “I have voted only once for an independent candidate.” “I voted twice, but I felt unrepresented.” “I will not vote in the current election unless the opposition participates. I will not vote for the lesser evil because I don’t want to make things worse for Albania. I have voted believing that my vote can make change, no matter how small.”



Graphic 2: Young People and Political Parties

4.2.2 Young People and Voting Behaviour

It is worthy of note that 70.8% of the respondents say that they have participated at least 1 time in elections, whereas 29.2% of them have never voted. Of the 91.2% who have participated at least one time in elections belong to the 25 to 30 age group, and only 8.8% of them have never voted. Whereas 35.6% of the 18-24-year-old have never participated in elections, and 64.4% of them have voted at least once.

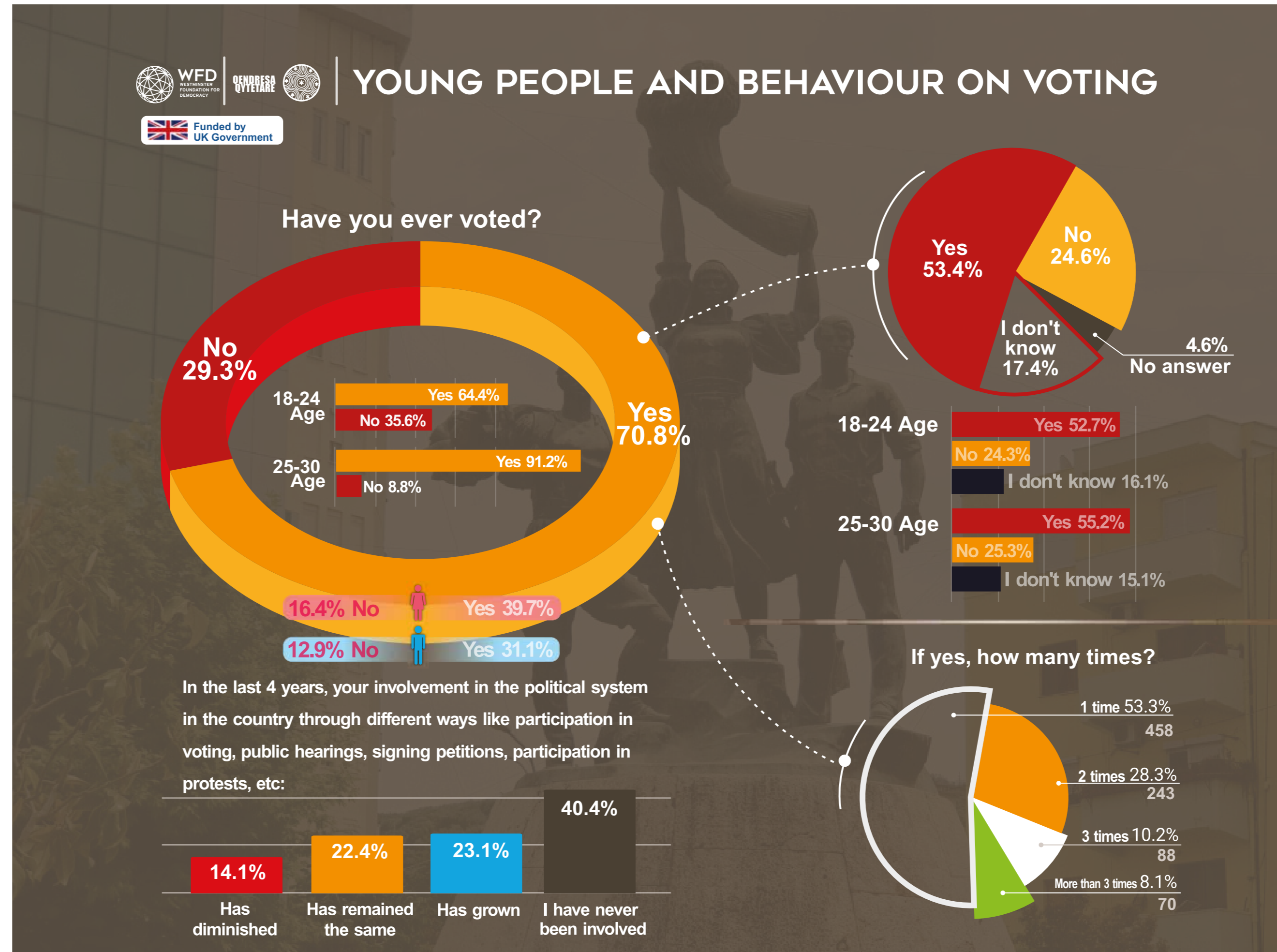
The age distribution in relation to the propensity to participate in the coming elections shows no major differences as 52.5% of those aged 18-24, and 55.2% of those aged 25-30 are planning to participate in the upcoming elections. This indicator is very significant in terms of their relationship with the vote as the main instrument of exercising the sovereign right of choice in a democratic governance system.

On the other hand, the engagement and civic activism in other forms such as public hearing, petitions or protests, remains low. Whereas 40.4% of young people have never been engaged in other forms of democratic participation, only 23.1% of them say that in the last 4 years their engagement in the above forms has increased, 22.4% say this engagement has remained the same, whereas for 14.1% of them it has declined.



Quotes chosen from the focus groups with the young people

- “Although I do not see alternatives, I have been voting, and I will vote for the least evil.”
- “I will vote because it is a constitutional right.”
- “Silence is to accept the status-quo.”
- “I will not vote in the upcoming elections because I do not see any alternative. I voted 3 times and I did not feel represented.”
- “I have voted only once for an independent candidate.”
- “I voted twice, but I felt unrepresented.”
- “I will not vote in the current election unless the opposition participates. I will not vote for the lesser evil because I don't want to make things worse for Albania. I have voted believing that my vote can make change, no matter how small.”



Graphic 3: Young People and Voting Behavior

4.2.3 Trust and Differences among Generations of Politicians

The respondent's trust in other young people involved in politics is at low levels. More than half of them (60%) do not find successful models among young people in politics, whereas 40% of them do find a model of success. Still a bigger percentage (48%) finds old politicians as models of success in their political careers, whereas 52.3% did not. This result was a surprise, if we refer to the general public perception in media analyses and citizens' voices, which state that old politicians are the highly consumed political figures, and the Albanian society has grown tired of them.

On the other hand, it seems that political parties, despite their efforts and increasing bids to involve young people at all levels of government involvement, and even as members of the parliament have failed to turn young people into success models, so they can inspire their peers. Forty-five percent (45%) of the respondents think that other young people in political parties imitate their leader's

model, while 25% think that young people inside the party do not bring any innovation to the system, and 30% think that young people bring about a new political model to their respective parties.

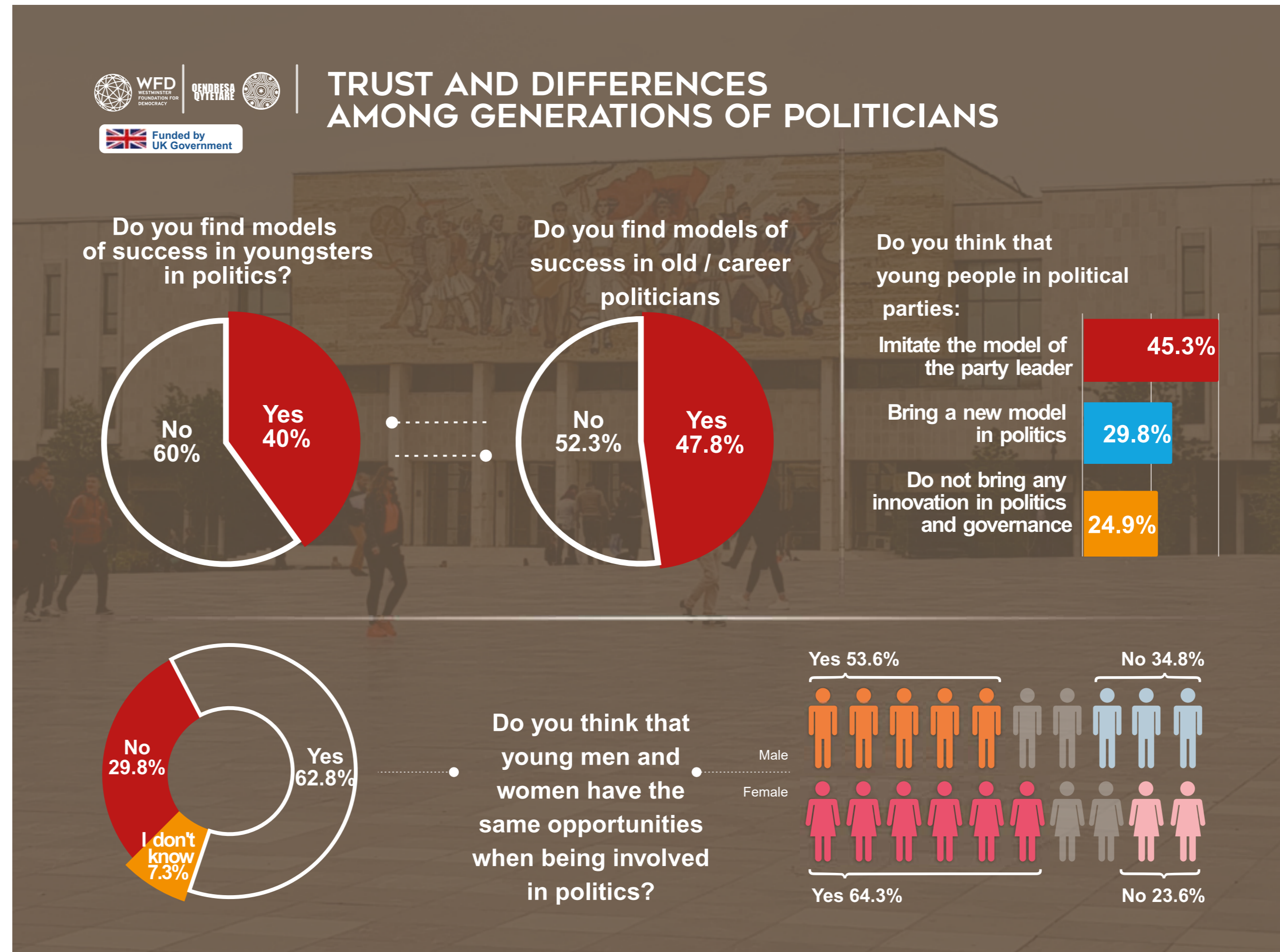
Referring to our focus group discussions, young people consider their peers who are serving as Members of Parliament or chairpersons in important institutions: "as party leaders' tools" rather than a participant with weight and decision-making power and often as not capable of exercising their tasks. According to them, "policy making requires maturity and expertise."



Quotes chosen from the focus groups with the young people

“Young people are used by youth forums and imitate the leader in rhetoric and behaviour (Machiavelism).”

“Young people in politics do not bring innovative ideas, they behave like old people. They do not dare to go against the party line and do not inspire me.”



Graphic 4: Trust and Differences among Generations of Politicians

4.2.4 Young People, Perception of Politics and Will to be Involved

Also, if we consider politics as separate from political parties, 46.1% of the Albanian youth see politics in principle as a mission, idealism, based on the idea of a person or group of people who want to bring about change in society. Likewise, 61.5% of them admit that presence in politics and identification as a political figure brings prestige and social status deriving from power and recognition from society at large.

Most of the young people (68.8%) believe that youth should be involved with politics, 21.4% believe that young people should not deal with politics and 9.8% of young people do not state an opinion on this case. But 46.6% of this group distance themselves from any possibility of future involvement in politics, 32.3% would wish to deal with politics in the future and 21.2% are undecided.

Known excuses stand behind such attitudes. Albanian politics is considered by young people as a non-transparent arena that has often produced scandals and has been involved in illegal activities in general and criminal activities in particular. In the focus groups, the youngsters noted that youth engagement in decision-making does not go hand in hand with their actual merits and contributions. Young people who have managed to stand out and become part of the list of candidates in elections have also benefited from great financial support of their parents and relatives. In some cases, their involvement comes as a reward (debt repayment) for the continuous support of their entrepreneurial parents for the respective political subject. Under these conditions, there is little or no place for mission and idealism.

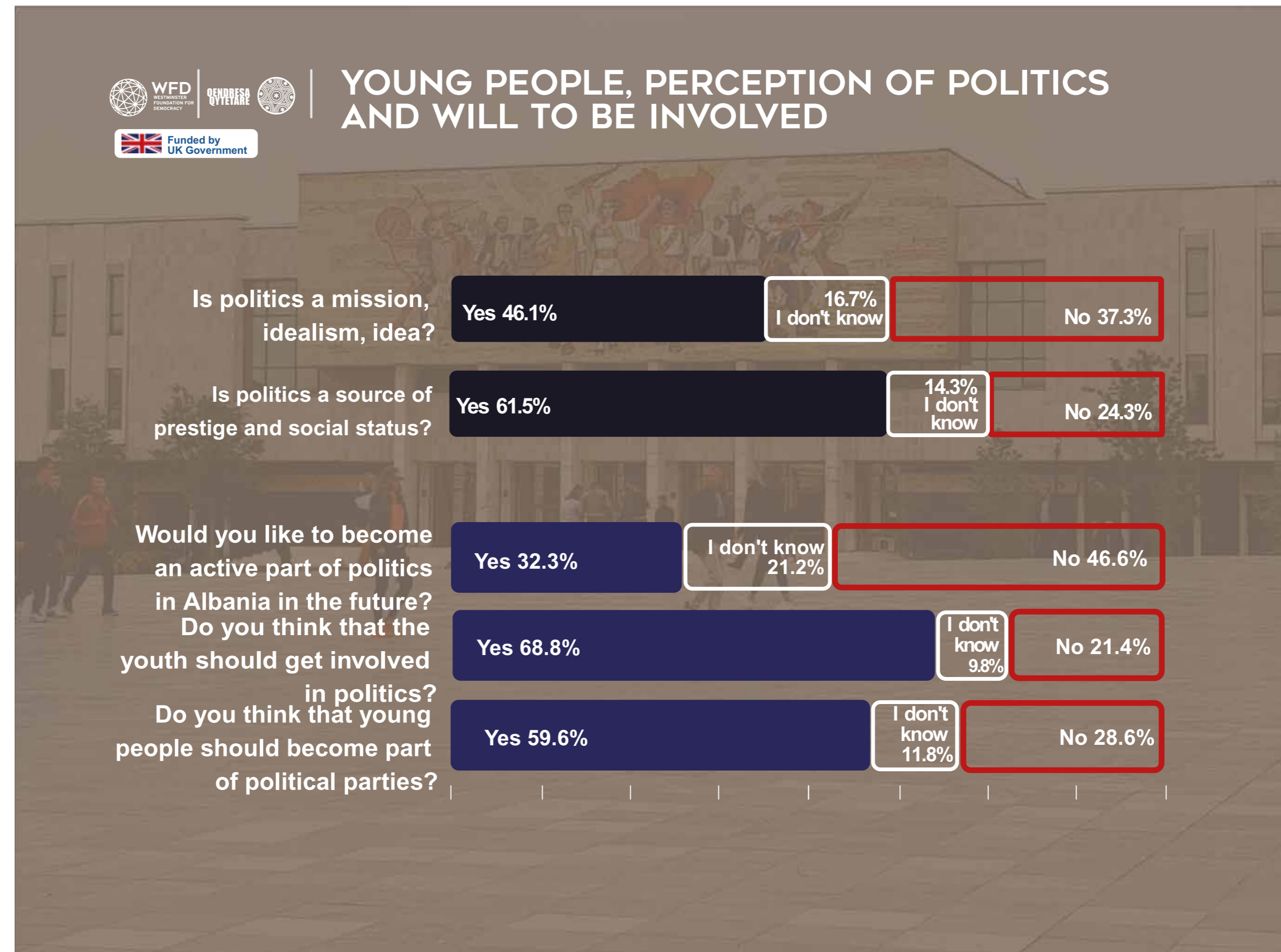


Quotes chosen from the focus groups with the young people

“I’m not involved in politics because the problem is the political system. Young people in politics are appointed by the chairperson of the party, and they make a career because of personal connections, and not because of any merit or competition.”

“Young people are clones of old politicians and demonstrate no independent ideas.”
“We don’t want to get ourselves involved into politics; we prefer others to do it for us.”

“I have no information on where I can get involved. In general, young people do not find much information.”



Graphic 5: Young People, Perception of Politics and Will to be Involved

4.3 Politics and Policies for the Youth

Concerning the commitment of young people to take over responsibilities in a public office positions, only 51% of them believe that their peers can take over high public offices, 30% of whom are females and 21% males. Twenty-six percent (26%) do not have an opinion, and 23% do not trust their peers. When the question was asked from a personal perspective, only 44% of the young people asked are willing to take over important public offices, while 22% do not have an opinion and 34% would refuse to take over such responsibilities.

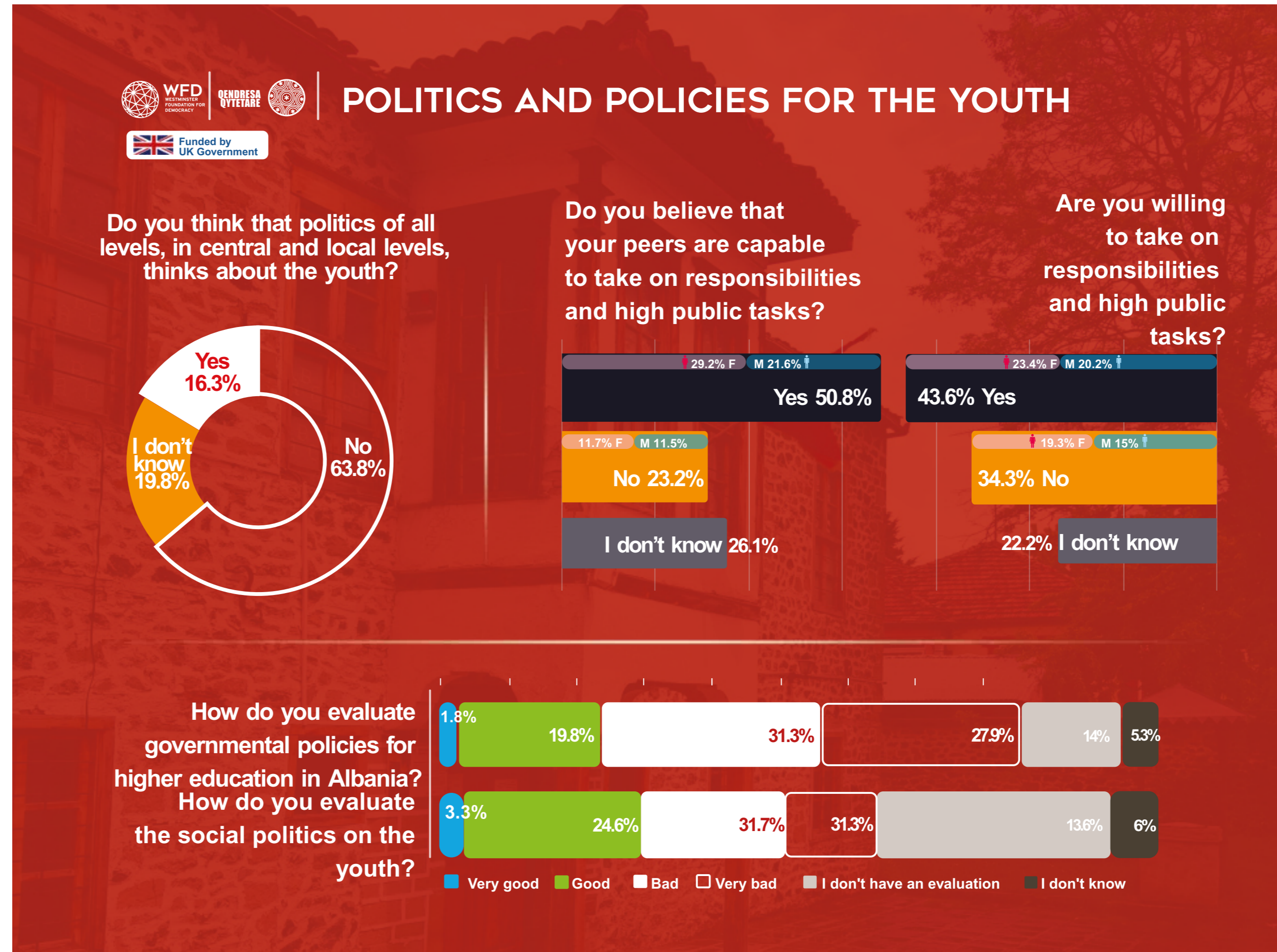
Interestingly, around half of the respondents, despite the lack of success models among young politicians, think that their peers are capable of assuming high

public office positions. This attitude is closely related to meritocracy. According to respondents and focus group participants there is no lack of young people who have excelled in studies and professions in Albania, and at a young age are promoted to high professional levels in Europe and the United States of America. But there are fewer examples of such excellent youth promoted in Albania. No wonder the overwhelming part of them consider building their future abroad.



Quotes chosen from the focus groups with the young people

‘The Higher Education Reform’ and the ‘The Pact on the University’ have had effect only in Tirana; in Vlora we have dormitories built with cancer-inducing material (Eternit) and we did not get the student cards. The only thing that we got was the tariff reduction, but this is also unstable, as the change was enacted by the Decision of the Council of Ministers and not by law.”



Graphic 6: Politics and Policies for the Youth

4.4 Youth and Social Challenges

The youth perceives Albania as a country with a lot of challenges and different problems. Almost thirty percent (29.7%) of them think that the country's main challenge is corruption. Only 21.4% of young people see economy as a problem, while about 33.2% of them chose education and employment. Seven-point three percent (7.3%) of the young people state that crime is a challenge, 6.8% state other challenges and 1.6% say that environment protection and safety are the main challenge.

Corruption is considered as one of the most important challenges for youth due to the high impact it has on the country's economy as well as because of the negative repercussions in other areas of development and it is mentioned as an issue to be improved in every progress report of the European Union and of the American State Department for Albania.

The data from this section reconfirms a much-discussed controversy in the last decade. Emigration is perceived as part of short-term and mid-term plans of 71% of

the Albanian youth. In the meantime, 11% of young people are undecided on this issue, whereas the other part (17.9%) do not plan to emigrate.

Half of young people (50%) prefer to emigrate to Western European countries; 25% to North America; 13% to Northern Europe; 11% to neighbouring countries, and only 1% to Asia. It seems that most young people who prefer to emigrate are undergraduate students and some that have graduated. They argue that one of the main reasons why they strive to achieve high university marks is to increase the chances of finding a job abroad.

The reasons for such urge to leave the country are related to the economy, education, family and employment that are, according to them, at the same time the main challenges that Albania faces nowadays.



Quotes chosen from the focus groups with the young people

“I see the individual as a product of society, I have grown up with the problems of Albania and I can only give my best here.”

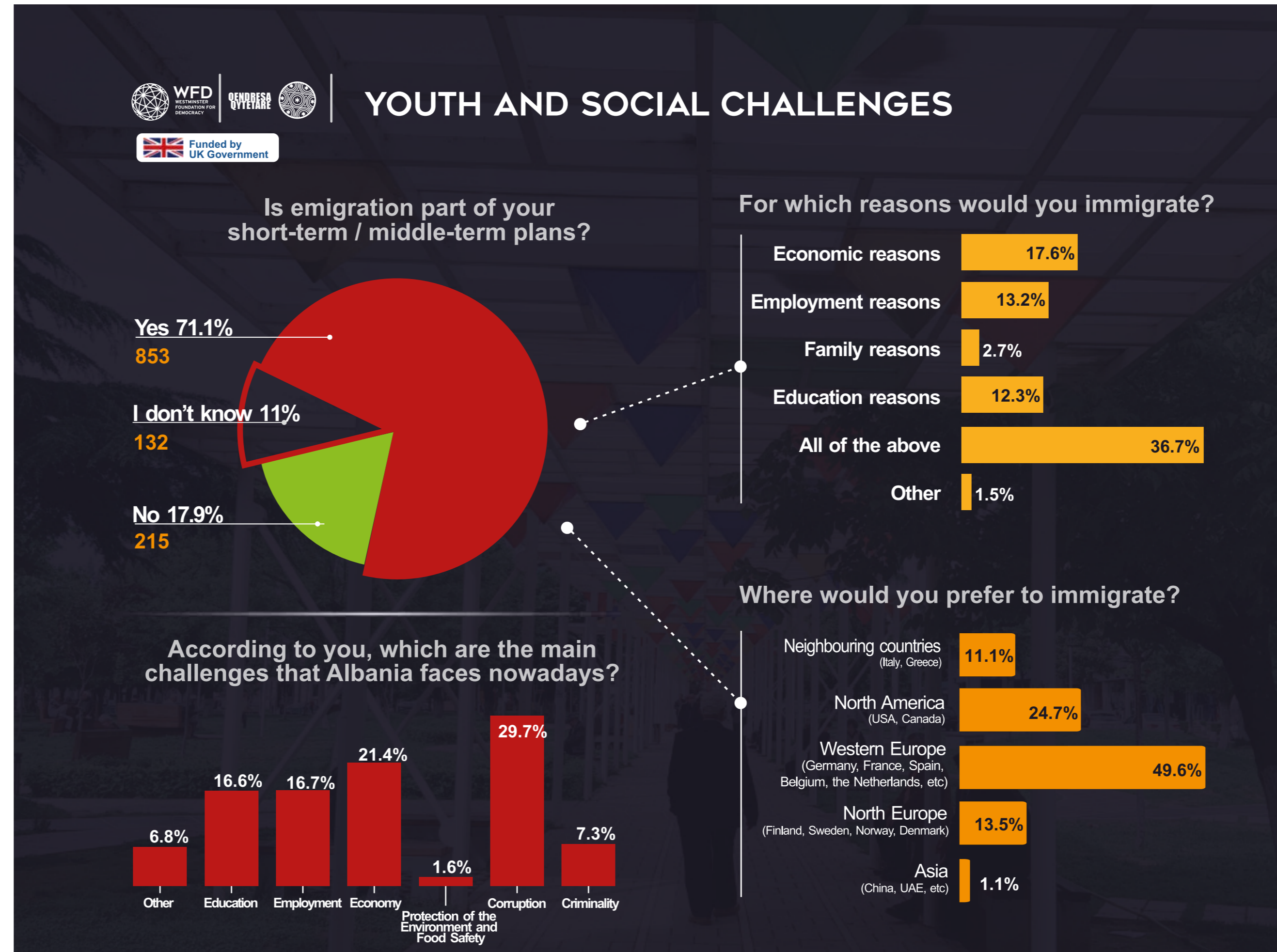
“The main reason for emigration would be the economic one. Albania gives you many reasons to say that it does not need you. “

“I will choose to emigrate because there is no meritocracy in Albania in the opportunities offered for employment.”

“We are educated and doing extracurricular courses in order to find an opportunity of employment outside of the country.”

“I will stay in Albania, although I do not see real opportunities. It’s the only place we have.”

“Even though I’m employed, I’m going abroad. Individual development is limited in Albania.”



Graphic 7: Youth and Social Challenges

4.4.1 Youth and Employment

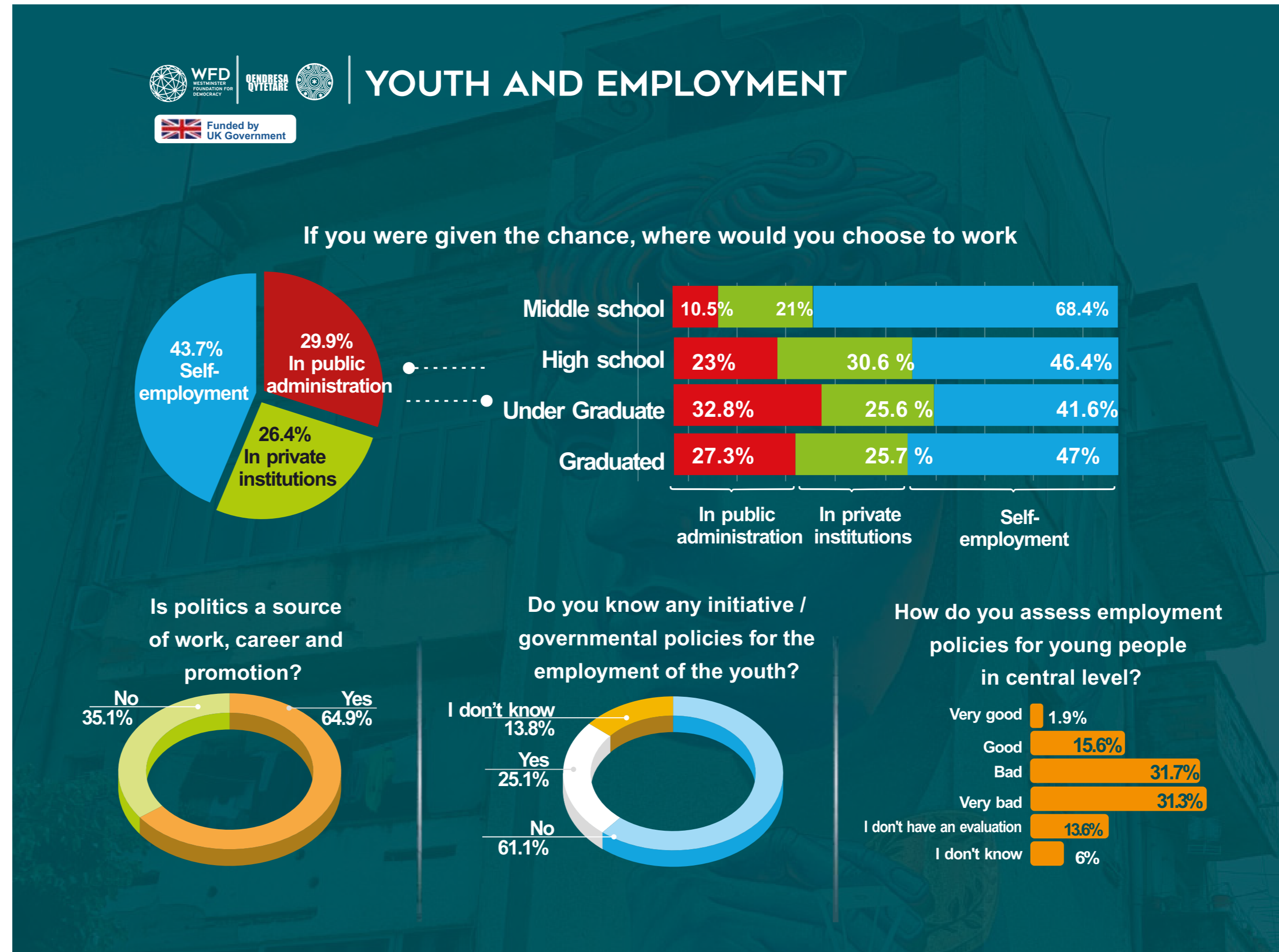
Employment is seen as one of the main challenges and one of main reasons for young people to emigrate. Seventy percent (70%) of the young people would like to work in the private sector, 44% of which would choose to be self-employed. According to them, employment in public administration is uncertain and temporary and is preferred only by 30% of the young people interviewed. Sixty-five percent (65%) of young people believe that politics is a source of work and career while 35% do not trust politics for their career.

At the same time, most of the young people (61%) do not know any governmental initiative for youth employment in the country, 25% of them are aware of similar initiatives, and 14% of these young people did not have an opinion. Sixty-three percent (63%) of respondents give a negative assessment for youth policies at the central level, 17.5% of them assess them positively and 19.5% of respondents do not have any opinion on this issue.



Quotes chosen from the focus groups with the young people

“I would work in the private sector as one can grow professionally. If we get employed in the state administration, we cannot be safe from political rotations; we know the party that comes into power fires the employees of the other party.”



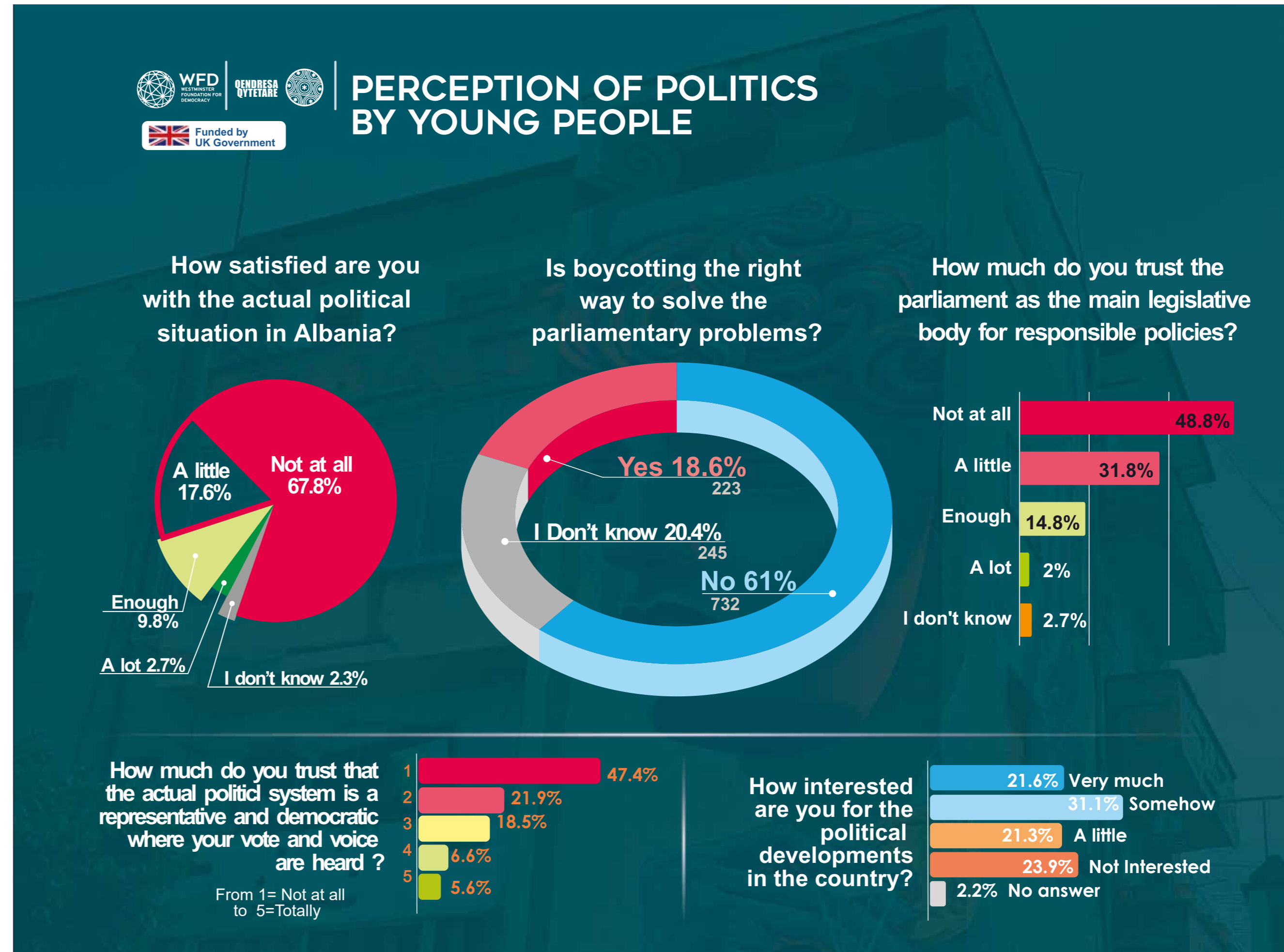
Graphic 8: Youth and Employment

4.5 Perception of Young People on the Political Situation

Obviously, a large portion of the young people (67.85%) is not at all satisfied with the current political situation in Albania. Seventeen percent (17%) of them are somehow satisfied and only 10% are a little satisfied. On the other hand, only 3% of them are very much satisfied with the political situation in the country, and 2% of them do not state an opinion.

More than half are not supporters of parliamentary boycott (61%) as a way for solving political problems. Around 19% of them are pro boycott and 20% of them are indifferent of this issue.

The main opinion shared by surveyed participants and focus groups is the lack of trust that political parties are protecting the interests of citizens. This attitude coincides with the high level of mistrust in the work of parliament. However, around 53% of young people are very and somewhat interested in political developments in the country. They think that these developments have an impact on the socio-economic situation, tourism, and on their future. Forty-five percent (45%) of young people are little or not interested in political developments at all, and 2% of respondents have not answered.



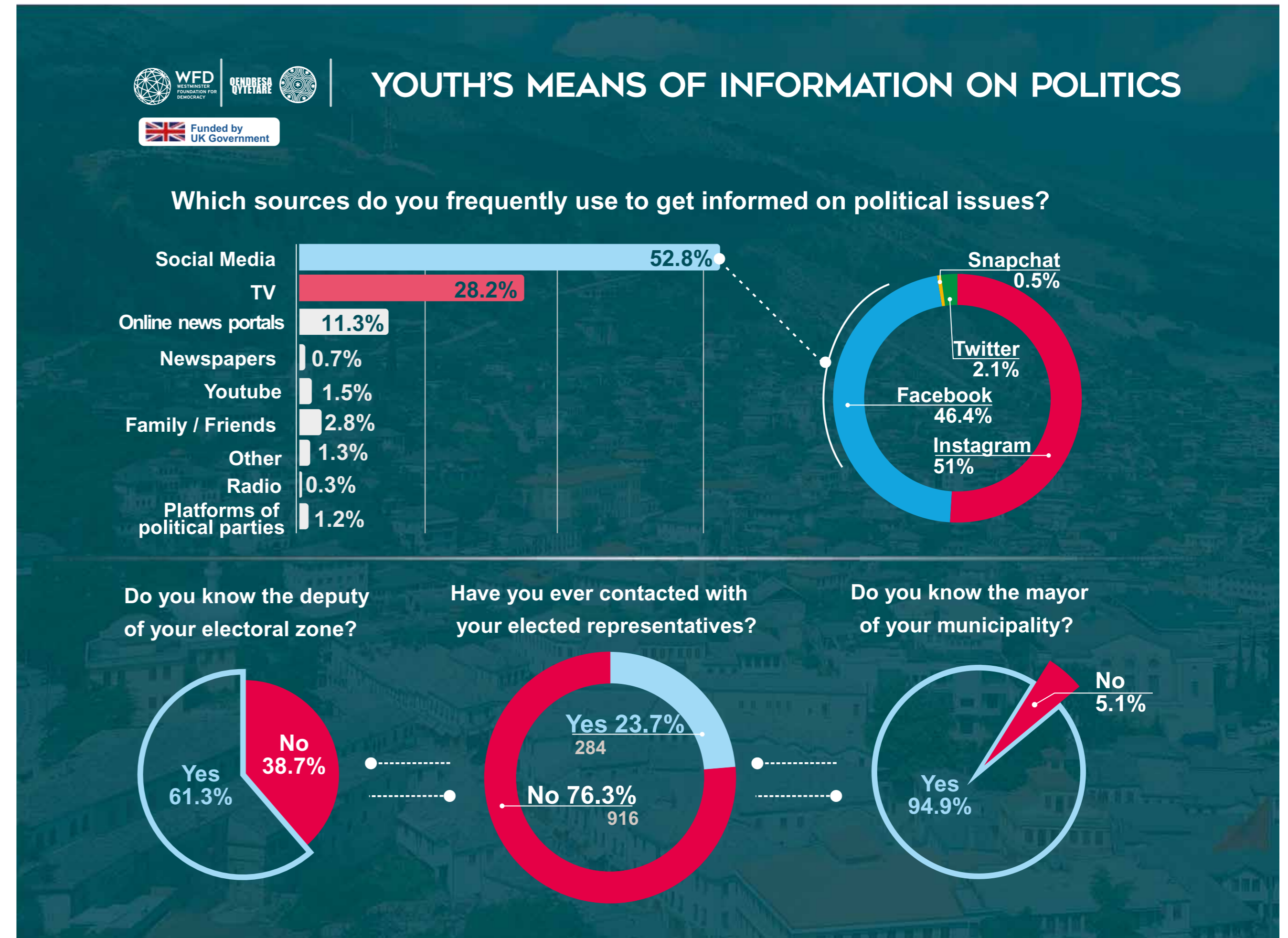
Graphic 9: Perception of Politics by Young People

4.6 Youth's Means of Information on Politics

More than half of young people (54%) are informed on political issues through social media, 28% of them get information through the TV, 11% through the news portals, 3% of them are informed from their friends, and a small number (1%) are informed through the newspapers and radios. It is noteworthy that young people avoid media platforms of the political parties, where only 1% of them are informed through them. Two percent (2%) of young people choose other sources to get information about news and updates on politics. The main sources of information are Instagram and Facebook. It seems that political parties have understood this trend and are increasingly expanding their presence in the social networks widely used by young people. If one looks at the source distribution of information inside the indicator of social media, 51% of them get informed through Instagram, 46.5% through Facebook, 2% through Twitter and only 0.5% through Snapchat.

Meanwhile, Mayors are the most well-known political figures for the young people, even better known to them than Members of the Parliament representing their electoral constituencies. Despite the large number of information sources used by young people, around 39% of them do not know the Member of Parliament of their electoral zone, whereas 61% of them knew their Mayor. Most of young people (76%) have never contacted their elected representatives in office at central and local levels, while 24% state that they have contacted their MPs offices. In contrast, they have contacted their Mayors in public hearings or local activities where they have been present.

In general, mayors are easier to meet than an average Members of Parliament. From the focus group discussions, it became evident that politicians tend to meet citizens mostly during electoral campaigns. Moreover, there are cases where the



Graphic 10: Perception in Political Situation

5 RECOMMENDATIONS

Central government and subordinate institutions

- » The Government should rigorously implement the six (6) objectives of the National Action Plan for Youth and fulfil the promises underlined in the Pact for the University. Specifically, youth centres should be set up in each municipality to create a friendly environment for youth activism and promotion; a work portal (i.e. youth.al), must be developed as foreseen in this action plan, and accurate data must be processed and published on different sectors to increase opportunities of youth employment. The government should increase employment practices for excellent students in the public administration and should promote professional education and the development of the skills of young people towards new technologies and innovation to meet the demands of a competitive European labour market. Also, the government should create valid preconditions for a fair competition in the public administration recruitment processes and provide opportunities for young people's employment in the public sector.
- » The government should provide each year a special allocation for youth in the state budget and increase the budget for higher education up to 1% of GDP from the current 0.4%. This increase will lead to more investments in national and local youth projects and higher education infrastructure, which suffers the deficiencies of laboratories, teaching facilities and libraries.

Local Government

- » Municipalities should draft local youth plans (done only in 3 municipalities so far), and Municipal Councils should adopt them along with specific budgets for implementation. These plans will serve to build infrastructure for the development of youth initiatives, such as constructing youth centres, promoting youth business and start-ups, making student loans available, setting up e-libraries and sport centres for youth.

Political Parties

- » Political Parties should develop long-term programs and strategies focusing on integrating youth in the political system and renounce promises and job offerings in exchange of political engagement.
- » Political parties should create merit and competition-based mechanisms (choice, debate, freedom of action) within the youth structures and inside their own ranks. This can be achieved through the revision of the statutes of youth forums and establishment of working groups within parties responsible to further strengthen the youth structures.
- » Political parties need to increase the number of young women and men (18-30 years old) at the top of their lists of candidates for central and local elections, by setting the standard quota for young people at 30% for a transitional period to ensure youth representation in politics.

Higher Education Institutions

- » Universities should develop policies for integration and reintegration of youth into the labour market by creating bridges of cooperation with the private sector. This practice requires a broad agreement between businesses, the government and the universities, based on regulations, decisions of the Council of Ministers and international cooperation practices. Universities (public and private) must urgently adapt their curricula in accordance with the labour market requirements by shutting the doors of outdated subjects that do not respond to the market demands and introducing new ones focused on technology, science, and innovation.
- » Rectors and University senates should engage in the implementation of the legal acts envisaged in the "Pact for the University" and must announce the elections

for Student Councils and organize them. They must involve students in financial and academic decision-making of the university, by increasing the value of their vote when choosing faculty members up to 20% from the existing 10%.

Donors active in the field of Youth Empowerment

- » Donors should focus their energies on youth empowerment to increase their role in monitoring and supporting institutions and youth policies at central and local levels by capacitating youngsters on governance monitoring, transparency and accountability, and youth inclusion in central and local decision-making processes.
- » Donors working in the field of youth should base their work on youth policy development programs focusing on developing youth models in politics, enriching their vocabulary and their knowledge of different political ideologies

and elements of democracy. Political education and cultivation of basic elements of democracy must be the main objectives of their activities with the youth.

- » Donors working in the field of youth should orient their grants towards promoting self-employment of young people through the financial support of start-up businesses or agriculture and handicrafts.
- » The donors working in the field of youth should create opportunities for young people to develop professional skills, oriented towards professions that the European market demands, such as IT, programming etc. Also, they should focus on delivering tailored information about the integration process of Albania in the European Union, the opportunities available for exchanges, studies and multilateral projects.



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