



VOICES OF YOUTH

SURVEY ON YOUTH IN BIH
QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH FINDINGS

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Sarajevo
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Impressum

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FOREWORD

Thousands of youth voices from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are echoed in this report. They speak about their lives, they raise concerns about their education, employment, social protection and living standards and they share their perspectives about what they see as their future. It is our responsibility to listen to them.

This report confirms that young people in BiH face many challenges in various aspects of their life. Three out of four young people are unemployed. Most of them are not married, have no children and have not solved their housing situation. They are often pessimistic about their future and find their living standards “mediocre” at best. An increasingly technological labour market requires skills that many young people do not possess. Compared to the general youth population, vulnerable groups are even more hard-pressed by everyday challenges of life in BiH. Nonetheless, young people demand quality education and better access to non-formal education programs. They want to be more involved in decision making and they call for their peers to be more engaged, proactive and assertive.

The voices of the youth should be taken into account to a far greater extent than has been the case until now. It is the responsibility of BiH to respond to their voices, and UN agencies are committed to supporting this change. To that aim, we hope this report will serve as a baseline for planning new youth-orientated policies and government programmes for improving youth employability, education, participation, living standards, and social protection.

Giving young people the tools they need to improve their own lives will foster creation of economically-independent generations, fully engaged in civic life and able to actively contribute to their communities. On the other hand, young people need to understand that they also bear the burden of being proactive in developing necessary life skills and key competencies that will help them find (and keep) jobs.

This report is a result of collaboration between Prism Research Agency, UNICEF and UNDP within the UN’s *Youth Employability and Retention Programme (YERP)*, which is jointly implemented by 5 UN Agencies (IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNV) with the support of the Millennium Development Goals Fund. This study was undertaken to better understand the challenges young people face today. With 75 million young people without a job globally in 2011, and with no expectations for improvement in next three years, youth unemployment remains a concern in almost every country, including BiH. By investing in youth, education and training, countries can develop a large and productive workforce and satisfied citizenry, contributing significantly to the growth of national economies and strong countries. We hope this report will contribute to this goal.



Florence Bauer, Representative

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)



Yuri Afanasiev,

United Nations Resident
Coordinator

SUMMARY

The Voices of Youth Survey (hereinafter VoY) was carried out within the UN Youth Employability and Retention Programme (YERP) which is supported through the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-Fund) and funded by the Government of the Kingdom of Spain. The purpose of this project has been to conduct a survey that can serve as a baseline for the development of more adequate youth policies as well as to enable young people to participate more actively in society.

The goals of this survey were to examine the experiences, attitudes, opinions and wishes of young people in terms of education, employment and the labour market, the economic situation, the level of social protection, political and other forms of social participation and other related issues. One of the goals was to detect any changes, compared to those established through a similar survey carried out in 2008, in the attitudes and opinions of young people related to various issues and challenges as well as to identify any differences between the general youth population and specific vulnerable groups.

The survey was based on a representative sample of young people aged 15-30 (N=2008 respondents) in BiH including a sample representing different vulnerable categories of youths: children without parental care, Roma youths, young people with special needs, and youth returnees (N=352 respondents). The survey findings may be of use to different governmental and public institutions as well as various civil society and private organisations that deal with youth issues and participate in the development of social policy.

On the basis of the survey findings, it appears that the biggest problem pertaining to the practical implementation of this survey's recommendations is the fact that when it comes to young people so many things need to be changed in BiH. This requires intervention on many levels, beginning with legislation and moving down to the lower levels that would implement the necessary and desired changes and new youth policies. One of the most important issues is the question of the financial resources required to introduce significant changes into the lives of young people in BiH, namely how to ensure funding to implement these changes.

The conclusion of this survey is that many young people are faced with different challenges that affect various aspects of their lives, starting from education and a lack of employment opportunities within the labour market through to insufficient social protection and living standards. The major problems are unemployment and this is compounded by the issue of housing and social and economic dependence. Young people estimate their standard to be mediocre but remain pessimistic about the future. Vulnerable groups in particular are in jeopardy, especially with regard to education, employment and income.

According to the findings of this survey, tackling the issues of unemployment and the provision of housing for young people are the primary problems related to the youth that need to be addressed in order to benefit society in general in BiH. Efforts should also be made to increase the quality of education and to enable more young people to gain access to non-formal training programmes. Employers should be encouraged to include young people in decision making, while young people should be encouraged to adopt a more assertive approach and to become more entrepreneurial and be more engaged in social and political life. Furthermore, one of the priorities should be to protect the rights of young people, particularly the right to education and for those whose rights are violated at the workplace as well to ensure the rights of vulnerable groups. Finally, improvement of the system for social protection in BiH is required and a proactive approach should be adopted in order to reduce bribery and corruption related to employment and to prevent trafficking in human beings.

The UN agencies in BiH, together with their institutional partners, can use the findings of this survey to plan new youth orientated social policies that will address the existing challenges that face young people in BiH today.

INTRODUCTION

The Voices of Youth Survey (hereinafter VoY) was implemented within the UN Youth Employability and Retention Programme (YERP). The latter is supported by the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-Fund) through funding provided by the Government of the Kingdom of Spain. The YERP programme is jointly implemented by the UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM and UNV in partnership with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH, the entity ministries of labour and education, the Agency for Statistics of BiH, the entity statistics institutes, employment bureaus across the country, primary and general secondary schools, municipalities and rural communities, individual enterprises, private sector associations and civil society organisations ranging from the community level to that of the diaspora.

Since 1995 VoY has become a global brand for youth participation. VoY was originally developed by UNICEF as a means for 3,000 young people from 81 countries to send their messages to the leaders that gathered at the World Summit on Social Development that took place in Copenhagen in the spring of 1995. Today VoY relies on social media and digital technology to implement its goal of empowering youth and raising the awareness of young people about their rights. The VoY survey represents one of the first steps in the process of collecting data on young people. The aim of this project has been to conduct a survey that will reflect the voices and views of young people in BiH today and therefore allow for the inclusion of their opinions, desires, attitudes and perceived possibilities to be taken in account and form the basis for the creation of more youth sensitive policies as well as to enable young people to participate more actively in society.

One of the major challenges facing BiH during the post-war period and the current period of transition has been that of unemployment, which has had a disproportionate effect on young people. Such a situation is dangerous in that it could lead to increased apathy and social exclusion of the youth (as well adults) and possibly lead to social unrest. Consequently, in 2010 the UN began implementation of the *Youth Employability and Retention Programme* (hereinafter YERP¹) in BiH. Several UN agencies are included in this programme: UNICEF (*United Nations Children's Fund*), UNDP (*United Nations Development Programme*), IOM (*International Organisation for Migration*), UNFPA (*United Nations Population Fund*) and UNV (*United Nations Volunteers*). The goals of this programme are focused on (1) increasing the capacities of the education system and local communities to improve youth employability, (2) enhance the capacities of the public employment services and civil society to develop and deliver an integrated package of youth employability measures and (3) to maximise the positive impact of youth migration and to minimise the negative impact of irregular migration. Since completion of the YERP Project is foreseen for 2012 it is particularly interesting to assess the attitudes of young people concerning their own position during the current year.

The main goals of the survey were to collect data on the attitudes, opinions, perceptions and aspirations of young people in order to serve as a basis for the creation of more youth sensitive policies and provide for a more active role for young people within society. In addition to data collection, one of the goals of the survey has been to detect any changes in the attitudes and opinions amongst young people related to the different issues and challenges and compare them to those established through a similar survey conducted by Prism Research for GTZ in 2008. This also allows for a further comparison in order to identify any differences between the attitudes, opinions and perceptions of the youth population in general and those from specific vulnerable categories.

The survey was carried out during December 2011 and January 2012 through computer assisted personal interview (CAPI). The survey included a representative sample of young people in BiH (N=2360) aged 15-30. A part of the sample (N=2008 respondents) comprised young people representing the general youth population, while the other part comprised youth from vulnerable groups (N=352 respondents).

¹ <<http://www.undp.ba/upload/projects/MDG-F%20BiH%20YERP%20Project%20Document%20BiH.pdf>> accessed 17 February 2012

Vulnerable groups were represented by youths with special needs: N=100, youths without parental care: N=88, Roma youth: N=99, and youth returnees: N=65.

A similar survey was conducted in 2008 in response to the needs of GTZ (which has since changed its name to GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit). The previous research included a survey of a representative sample of 1,500 respondents aged 16-30 in 53 municipalities in BiH as well as qualitative, institutional and legislative analysis. The main purpose of the 2008 study was to provide comprehensive information on the situation of young people and an insight into the existing legal and institutional framework for the development of youth policies in seven primary sectors. The 2008 survey represented the first phase of the development of the “BiH Youth Policy 2008-2013”. This activity was implemented by the Commission for Coordination of Youth Issues in BiH at the Council of Ministers of BiH; the latter adopted the guidelines for carrying out the above mentioned study.

This report presents the results of the survey conducted in 2011/2012. For the purpose of comparison it also refers to the results of the 2008 research.

1. METHODOLOGY

In order to examine the attitudes, opinions and experiences of young people in respect to various aspects of their lives we used a quantitative research methodology. The quantitative research method used in this survey was computer assisted personal interview (CAPI). Table 1a shows the key aspects of the research process.

Table 1a: Key aspects of the research process

Period to conduct the survey	December 2011 – January 2012
Method of data collection	Computer assisted personal interview (CAPI)
Instruments	Instruments used in this survey were developed by Prism Research, in cooperation with the Client
Survey sample	Young people aged 15-30 belonging to the general population as well as young people categorised as belonging to different vulnerable groups (youth with special needs, young people without parental care, Roma youths and youth returnees)
Sample size	2,360 respondents: 2008 respondents aged 15-30 from the general population in BiH and 352 respondents categorised as belonging to vulnerable groups in BiH
Representativeness	General population: random stratified sample representative at the level of BiH, including the entities, regions and municipalities. Respondents were members of randomly selected households who most recently had their birthday.

Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI)

Computer assisted personal interview or CAPI is one of the most advanced forms of survey. This method includes a survey questionnaire that is programmed and set on a PDA device. Questions appear on the screen and follow a predetermined programmed order and logic, which allows the interviewer to enter questions directly into the device. A special software programme controls the implementation of the questionnaire and the selection of the sample.

Results

The results of this survey are shown in a form of comparison between the results established through the 2008 survey and the results from 2011/2012, for those questions posed in an identical form in the current survey. The remaining questions have been analysed based on the totals for 2011/2012. The analysis also established the differences between the responses of young people from within the general population and those young people who were members of vulnerable groups.

1.1.1. Interviewers, Coordinators and Controllers

A team comprised of 48 interviewers and 10 regional coordinators was engaged for the purposes of this survey. Selection of the interviewers and coordinators was made based on their previous experience, gender, age and the regional origin.

Only interviewers who had participated in at least ten similar size surveys or with a minimum of one year of experience in similar projects could participate in the survey.

All of the interviewers completed training on how to conduct the research where they were given an introduction to the sample and the method for implementing the survey. Question by question analysis was performed along with role play exercises.

1.1.2. Control over the Work of the Interviewers

Control over the fieldwork was carried out in several ways. Coordinators visited the interviewers who were conducting the survey in the field and an additional telephone check was conducted on 10% of randomly selected questionnaires done by each interviewer, based on the contact telephone numbers received from the respondents who participated in the survey. Prism Research also implemented special control procedures to assess the validity of questionnaires, which was enabled by the CAPI method survey.

1.2 Data Processing, Reporting and Delivery

A thorough processing and analysis of the collected data was performed in Sarajevo. Analysis of the data was conducted using the PASW statistics programme 19.0-professional research software. PASW was used for data cleaning and a logic check as well as to cross tabulate the results.

Overview comparison between the survey conducted in 2008 and the present 2011/2012 survey according to the most significant questions (arrows indicate any significant changes in attitude and their direction)

Attitudes of young people	Research wave		Significant change in attitudes
	2008	2011/2012	
Q5: Young people who are married (%)	20	26	↑
Q6: Young people who have a child/children (%)	15	21	↑
Q12: I estimate my current living standard as poor or mediocre (%)	66	75	↑
Q13: During the past 3 years my living standard has worsened or remained the same	72	87	↑
Q14: What makes young people satisfied today (%)			
Enrolment in secondary school	62	65	↑
Enrolment in college or higher education	61	61	↔
Enrolment in postgraduate studies	57	56	↓
Way of studying	38	57	↑
Employment opportunities	33	55	↑
Opportunities for resolving housing issues	34	56	↑
Opportunities for economic independence	35	57	↑
Opportunities for young people to engage in what they want	43	65	↑
Opportunities for promotion in profession or career	44	62	↑
Opportunities for political activism	27	44	↑
Opportunities for fun and recreation	58	72	↑
Opportunities for free expression of opinions	53	66	↑
Q15: In the next three years the standard will get worse or remain the same (%)			
Income	63	78	↑
Employment status	63	80	↑
Education and training	63	79	↑
Health protection	69	86	↑
Housing issue	71	87	↑
Overall quality of life	61	77	↑
Q46: The most important problems of young people (%)			
Material and economic dependence	43	24	↓
Education and school system	15	6	↓
Unemployment	70	74	↑
Housing issues	12	8	↓
Use of leisure time	3	3	↔
Subordinate position of young people	6	5	↓
Moral crisis and lack of ideals	5	7	↑
Insufficient concern of society for the problems of young people	10	19	↑
Social differences	4	7	↑
National disagreements	3	4	↑
Lack of interest of young people in social problems	3	8	↑
Inefficiency and inactivity of youth organisations	1	3	↑
Lack of freedom of speech, voice and opinion	1	4	↑
Alcoholism, drug addiction, delinquency, etc.	18	23	↑
Alienation in relations between people	1	3	↑
Q66: The education I gained/am gaining will not make it possible at all or will only make it possible to a certain extent to find a job in my chosen field (%)	60	79	↑
Q80: There are no voluntary activities organised in the education institution (%)	60	84	↑
Q81: There is no practical training organised within regular education (%)	48	52	↑
Q82: Non-inclusion in non-formal education (%)	64	75	↑

Attitudes of young people	Research wave		Significant change in attitudes
	2008	2011/2012	
Q84: Most frequent non-formal education covers foreign languages, sport, computer science and the development of professional skills (%)	23	88	↑
Q89: Number of months spent seeking a job after completion of education (average)	11	16	↑
Q90: In my job there is no need for knowledge and skills additional to those I already possess (%)	43	95	↑
Q92: Type of contract signed with employer (%)			
I did not sign any contract	19	13	↓
Contract on trial work	3	3	↔
Contract on permanent employment	50	55	↑
Contract on temporary employment	18	27	↑
Fee contract (includes author's contract, scholarship contract, etc.)	1	1	↔
Contract on internship	0	1	↑
Contract through the student service	0	0.5	↑
Q93: Sectors where respondents are employed (%)			
Agriculture, forestry, fishery, water management	5	1	↓
Industry and mining	4	8	↑
Construction, public utility services	8	9	↑
Crafts	9	9	↔
Transport and communication, trade, catering, tourism, recreation	34	32	↓
Own business such as hair-dressers, barbers, housemaids	2	3	↑
Finance, education, culture, health, social protection, the police, insurance, the military	19	19	↔
Public administration, state bodies and political parties	2	5	↑
Associations, NGOs, telecommunications, information sciences, development agencies	2	5	↑
Q94: Regular payment of monthly salaries by employers (%)	81	89	↑
Q95: Regular payment of contributions by employers (%)	64	78	↑
Q96: Employment in own profession (%)	37	50	↑
Q97: Representation of attitude that the unemployed are left on their own (%)	56	64	↑
Q101: Active job seeking attitude (%)	23	35	↑
Q106: Respondents who do not seek a job (%)	48	62	↓
Q 107: Sectors in which young people prefer to work (%)			
Agriculture, forestry, fishery, water management	10	17	↑
Industry and mining	12	16	↑
Construction, public utility services	14	25	↑
Crafts	19	24	↑
Transport and communication, trade, catering, tourism, recreation	48	59	↑
Own business such as hairdressers, barbers, housemaids	14	13	↓
Finance, education, culture, health, social protection, the police, insurance, the military	32	39	↑
Public administration, state bodies and political parties	13	17	↑
Associations, NGOs, telecommunications, information sciences, development agencies	32	23	↓
Q108: Minimum salary respondents are willing to work for (average)	467KM	614KM	↑
Q109: Average period of unemployment (average in months)	36	26	↓
Q110: Unemployed young people registered with the employment bureau (%)	35	58	↑

Attitudes of young people	Research wave		Significant change in attitudes
	2008	2011/2012	
Q116: Young people who have heard of cases of buying a job (%)	39	50	↑
Q 117: Young people who heard of bribery to get a job in public administration (%)	74	96	↑
Q118: Young people who heard of bribery to get a job in the private sector (%)	74	93	↑
Q120: Young people familiar with some of the government employment programmes (%)	19	27	↑
Q121: Young people as beneficiaries of some of the government employment programmes (%)	5	8	↑
Q123: Absence of efforts to start own business (%)	93	94	↑
Q151: Young people as beneficiaries of social welfare (%)	2	7	↑
Q163: Agreement with the attitude that women are discriminated against in the labour market (%)	22	32	↑
Q164: Young people who do not contribute to the household budget (%)	53	62	↑
Q165: Monthly amount young people are disposed of (average)	236KM	232KM	↓
Q171: Monthly amount of scholarship for those who receive scholarships (average)	317KM	167KM	↓
Q172: Young people who manage to save some money every month (%)	0	12	↑
Q173: Young people who are not interested in politics (%)	75	83	↑
Q185: Attitude that young people have no or little influence on important decisions (%)			
At work, in school or college	80	88	↑
In the family or household	61	70	↑
In the local community	89	97	↑
In political organisations or NGOs	90	99	↑
Amongst peers and friends	66	80	↑
Q193: Young people who voted in past elections (%)	57	60	↑
Q195: Attitude that young people have little or no influence on decisions on youth at the local level (%)	84	87	↑
Q210: Young people with positive attitudes on the work of youth organisations (%)			
Q245: Readiness to leave BiH (%)			
For studying abroad	43	53	↑
For temporary work	55	66	↑
For marriage	34	42	↑
For permanent life (residence) in some other country	46	52	↑
Q249: Readiness to go abroad for a longer period or forever (%)			
I would not go for good, but I would for a longer period	30	43	↑
If I had the chance I would go forever	37	38	↔
Q425a: Expectations that standard will get worse or stay the same in the future (%)	26	43	↑
Key:			
Positive changes in the attitudes of young people		↑	↓
Negative changes in the attitudes of young people		↓	↑
Unchanged attitudes		↔	↔

2 DETAILED FINDINGS

2.1 BASELINE DATA ON YOUTH IN BIH

The respondents who participated in this survey were young people aged 22 on average. Approximately half of the respondents (49.2%) were male and 50.8% were female.

Of the young adults who comprised the sample in this survey 26.3% were married, while most were single and lived alone (72.2%). Most respondents had no children (78.6%), whereas approximately every fifth respondent (21.4%) had on average one or two children. Respondents who had children were on average 22 years old when they got their first child.

Of the total sample most young people (71.9%) lived in a house owned by his/her parents or his/her spouse's parents; the latter was almost the same (69.2%) for the young adult respondents. The respondents were generally dissatisfied with government efforts to improve the situation for young people when it came to this issue of housing for young people. Grading government efforts to improve housing for young people from 1 to 10 (please note: grade 1 represents "completely dissatisfied" while grade 10 represents "very satisfied"), the respondents assessed government efforts to improve housing by selecting grade 3 on average (the same average grade was also established through the 2008 survey).

Most young people could speak English (75.6%, compared to 64.0% in 2008) and more than a quarter could speak German (28.2%, compared to 19.6% in 2008), while 12.3% of respondents stated that they could not speak any foreign language.

2.2 EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

2.2.1 Formal Education

In terms of education, most respondents older than 18 (74.3%, compared to 84.8% in 2008) had completed either three or four-years of secondary education. 3.3% of young people older than 18 had not completed any formal education, while 11.4% had completed some form of higher education. In most cases the parents of the respondents had also completed secondary education: fathers more frequently than mothers (67.7% of fathers compared to 56.6% of mothers).

Observing the groups of respondents according to their age category, it is noticeable that those who most commonly completed primary education were respondents aged 15-18 (72.5%), while respondents aged 19-24 as well as those aged 25-30 most frequently stated that they had completed secondary education (81.7% and 65.9% respectively). It was more common for respondents older than 24 to have completed post-secondary or higher education, relative to the younger respondents.

Respondents from vulnerable groups completed lower levels of education compared to those from the general population of young people. While respondents from vulnerable groups more commonly reported completion of primary school and lower education, more often completing three-years of secondary education, the general population respondents more frequently reported completing four-years of secondary education. This data indicates a level of insensitivity within society concerning education amongst vulnerable groups i.e., it suggest that there is a need to pay more attention, make greater efforts and allocate more resources for their education.

In the new wave of research (2011/2012) there was an increase in the number of respondents who stated that they had completed higher education compared to 2008. This information on the increase in the percentage of respondents with university education is encouraging and suggests that the number of young people that complete higher education in BiH is increasing.

Table 1 shows detailed information on the level of education of the respondents.

Table 1: *What is the highest level of education that you have completed? (The comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012 only covers respondents who were older than 18)*

	Wave of research	
	2008	2011/12
Four – year secondary school – gymnasium, technical school, etc.	54.4%	48.9%
Three – year secondary vocational school	30.4%	25.4%
Completed primary school	5.1%	6.4%
College – humanities and social sciences	1.1%	4.1%
College (4 years) - economics	1.1%	2.7%
Unfinished primary school – no education	1.1%	2.0%
College (4 years) – natural sciences, civil engineering and electrical engineering	1.1%	2.0%
College (4 years) - law	1.1%	1.4%
Uncompleted college education	1.1%	1.4%
Completed 4 grades of primary education	1.1%	1.3%
Post-secondary education – two years of additional education after secondary school - technical or health orientation	1.1%	1.2%
Post-secondary education – two years of additional education after secondary school – educational or social orientation	1.1%	0.9%
Post-secondary education – two years of additional education after secondary school – economic orientation	1.1%	0.6%
College (5 or 6 years) – medicine and dentistry	1.1%	0.6%
MA or PhD	1.1%	0.6%
Uncompleted secondary school	1.1%	0.4%
Do not know/no answer	1.1%	0.0%

Young people in BiH most frequently attend and complete public schools in BiH. Most respondents that completed formal education acquired their education in a public school or a public university in BiH (97.6% in 2011/2012 and 89.8% in 2008). A relatively low percentage of the respondents acquired their education in private institutions (1.2% compared to 1.7% in 2008). A low percentage of respondents were educated abroad (1.3%); however, respondents from vulnerable groups much more frequently reported that they completed their education in a public education institution abroad: 4.5% compared to 0.3% of respondents from the general population.

Those respondents who failed to complete their education, whether primary or secondary school or college, cited different reasons for this. In 2011/2012 the respondents more frequently stated reasons other than those contained in the questionnaire (63.1%), in addition to financial reasons (23.6%). The respondents who gave different reasons most commonly said that they were still studying at school or college (75.3%). A relatively low percentage of respondents selected disease or disability (8.3%), lack of interest (5.2%), will of parents (4.1%) or other (7.1%) as the reason for their failure to complete their education.

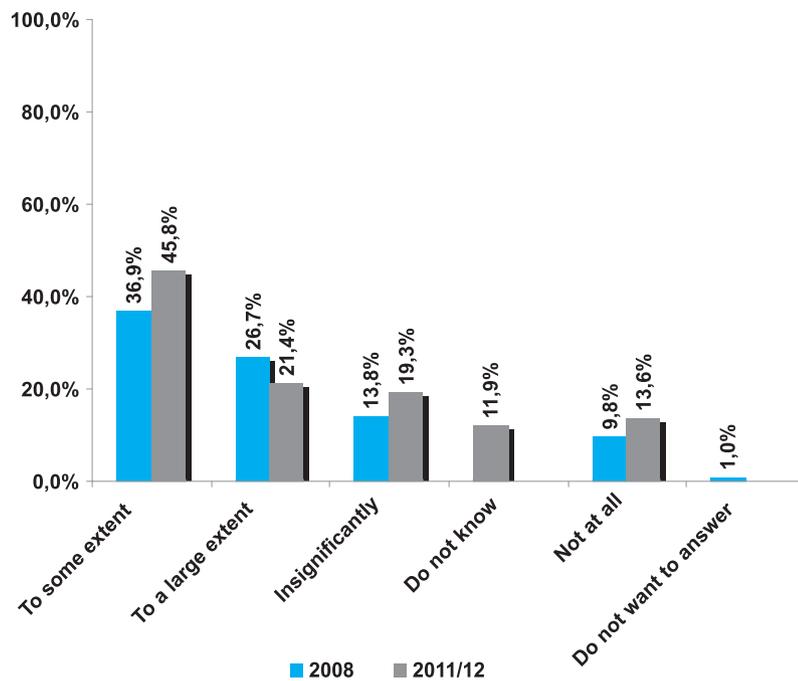
The most frequently stated reasons in 2008 were financial (17.0%) and lack of time due to involvement in agricultural work (15.0%). The fact that financial reasons and disease or disability were frequently cited as the reason for respondents not completing their education indicates insufficient investment in and care for the education of young people in BiH, particularly when it comes to persons with special needs. One of the reasons that young people gave for failing to complete their education that is cause for concern was the *will of parents*. Appropriate programmes and support measures could successfully address this issue.

Most respondents that had completed their formal education did not need to repeat a grade (92.1%

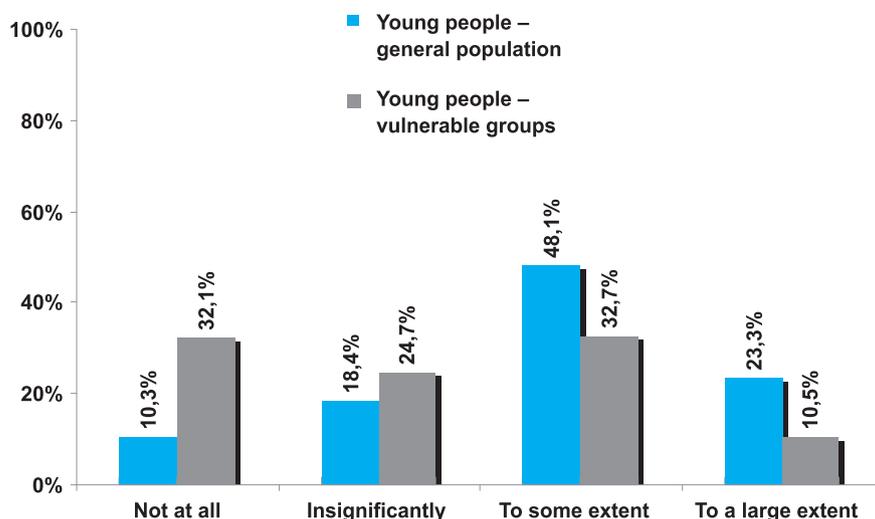
compared to 76.3% in 2008); yet it was far more common for those belonging to vulnerable groups to repeat a grade (15.9%) when compared to the general population (6.5%). These results indicate that the existing curricula are adjusted to the abilities of the majority of pupils/students and thus insufficiently adjusted to meet the needs of pupils/students belonging to vulnerable groups.

When asked to consider the extent to which their acquired education could help them to gain employment in the future most respondents believed that it may to some extent be a mitigating factor (67.1%), which suggests optimism in this matter. However, a relatively high percentage of young people, approximately one-third of respondents, did not express such optimism. This absence of optimism could be one explanation for the lack of interest reported by a certain number of respondents in completing their education. The 2008 respondents stated much more frequently that their acquired education would help them a great deal in finding a job, when compared to the respondents participating in the new wave research. Respondents belonging to vulnerable groups far more frequently selected the answers “Not at all” or ‘Insignificantly’, relative to general population respondents who far more often selected the answers ‘To some extent’ or ‘To a large extent’ (see Graphs 1 and 2).

Graph 1: To what extent will the education that you acquired or will soon acquire enable you to get a job in the future in the field of your obtained education? (Comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012)



Graph 2: Comparison between young people belonging to the general population and young people belonging to vulnerable groups.



It appears that most of the young people were satisfied with their education in the sense that they felt that they could master the curriculum. Their teachers also appeared to be fair to them and their parents seemed pleased with them. In both research waves most respondents believed that what was required of them during education was not (i.e. ‘*Definitely not*’ or ‘*to a lesser extent*’) too much of a burden for them (68.3%, compared to 66.6% in 2008). Most respondents stated that there were or had been several school subjects that were of interest to them (68.1%, compared to 23.3% in 2008). Furthermore, most respondents thought that their teachers took their work seriously (62.5% in 2011/2012 and 57.9% in 2008) and that they received adequate support from their parents when it came to schooling (84.8% in 2011/2012 and 79.0% in 2008). In 2008 less than half of the respondents (41.7%) agreed that most teachers approached their pupils/students in an appropriate manner, whereas in 2011/2012 this opinion was shared by 67.2% of respondents. The majority (81.8%) of respondents (compared to 72.8% of respondents in 2008) believed that their results in school were important to their parents.

However, when observed from a different perspective, many young people were dissatisfied with the curricula, school subjects and the attitude of their teachers and parents towards them and their education. Approximately one-third of the young people stated that the education requirements were too difficult for them, that school subjects were not interesting to them and that their teachers did not take them seriously or approach them in an adequate manner. In addition, approximately every fifth or sixth young person stated that they did not receive adequate support from their parents when it came to education and that they did not feel that the results they achieved in school were important to their parents.

This data indicates that there is room for improvement in the school curricula and in the professional competencies of teachers as well as in the attitude of parents towards their children’s education. Yet it is a fact that indicators such as having to repeat a school year and the percentage of those who complete a school programme cannot and should not be the only factors taken into account when drawing conclusions about to what extent education in BiH or in a specific education institution within BiH is adequate. This issue requires an in-depth approach and an analysis of the conditions under which young people in BiH are being educated.

For a more detailed overview of the results concerning the above see Table 2 below.

Table 2: To what extent can you say that the following statements apply to your education?

	Definitely not	To a lesser extent	To a large extent	Fully	Do not want to answer
Teaching requirements are too much of a burden for me	21.0%	47.3%	25.9%	5.4%	0.3%
There are many subjects I am interested in	6.7%	24.8%	46.2%	21.9%	0.3%
Most teachers take me seriously and are interested in my work	7.5%	29.7%	45.5%	17.0%	0.3%
Most teachers approach their students in an appropriate way	6.2%	26.3%	50.9%	16.4%	0.3%
My results in school are very important to my parents	6.1%	11.7%	33.5%	48.3%	0.4%
I receive full support from my parents when I face problems in education	5.7%	9.1%	33.1%	51.8%	0.4%

While both the young people who belong to general population and those who belong to vulnerable groups shared similar opinions on the extent to which education requirements represent a burden to them, when it came to other characteristics of education the respondents from vulnerable groups had significantly more negative attitudes relative to the general population respondents. The respondents from vulnerable groups chose the answers ‘Definitely not’ and ‘To a lesser extent’ significantly more often than those respondents from the general population.

In addition to the fact that most of the respondents from vulnerable groups found school subjects uninteresting, these respondents also perceived a lack of support from both parents and teachers in terms of their education (see Table 3). The aforementioned conclusions offer an insight into the reasons for this group’s poorer results in terms of education as compared to young people from the general population.

Table 3: To what extent can you say that the following statements apply to your education? (Comparison between young people belonging to the general population and young people belonging to vulnerable groups)

	Young people from the general population		Young people from vulnerable groups in the population	
	Definitely not/ To a lesser extent	To a large extent/ Fully	Definitely not/ To a lesser extent	To a large extent/ Fully
Teaching requirements are too much of a burden for me	68.3%	31.5%	68.8%	30.7%
There are many subjects I am interested in	28.5%	71.1%	48.6%	51.1%
Most teachers take me seriously and are interested in my work	35.0%	64.7%	50.0%	49.7%
Most teachers approach their students in an appropriate way	30.5%	69.1%	43.5%	56.5%
My results in school are very important to my parents	13.9%	85.8%	39.8%	59.4%
I receive full support from my parents when I face problems in education	10.7%	88.9%	37.8%	61.4%

It appears that voluntary work is not a usual practice within institutions of education in BiH. A relatively low percentage of respondents (16.4% in 2011/2012 and 15.2% in 2008) confirmed the existence of organised voluntary work in the schools and institutions where they were or had been educated. Considering the benefits of voluntarism for both those individuals engaged in it and society as a whole, it would be extremely beneficial if schools were to encourage their pupils to become engaged in such activities and to highlight the importance of voluntary work.

Another common response of the respondents was that they did not receive any practical training within their regular education (52.4%, compared to 48.3% in 2008). Nevertheless, a relatively high percentage of respondents (47.6% in 2011/2012 and 40.8% in 2008) stated that they were or had attended some form of practical training. Regardless, the adoption of practical skills should be a goal of every institution of education and learning by practical application should be present in all educational institutions.

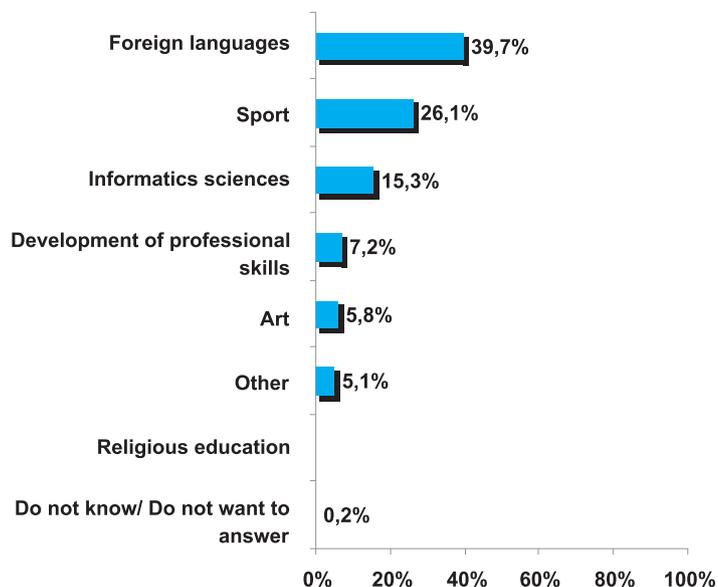
The highest percentage of respondents shared the opinion that what primarily needs be changed within formal education are the extensive scope of the curricula (28.6%, compared to 33.6% in 2008), followed by the lack of practical application (27.2% in 2011/2012 compared to 18.1% in 2008) and the lack of scholarship grants and loans (14.5% in 2011/2012 compared to 13.7% in 2008). While respondents belonging to the general population most frequently cited the lack of practical application (28.4%, compared to 20.2% amongst vulnerable groups) within this context, those respondents belonging to vulnerable groups (13.7% compared to 2.5% general population respondents) more often cited a lack of grants and loans (19.0%) as well as the absence of content on reproductive health for young people (4.5%). Generally speaking, the young people required adequate curricula adjusted to their needs, the possibility to learn through practical application and opportunities to gain scholarships and loans. Since education is one of the fundamental human rights and one of the most important factors in the development and prosperity of a society it would be beneficial to give serious consideration to the expressed wishes of the young people in regard to their education.

2.2.2 Non-Formal Education

According to the obtained data, it is relatively rare for young people to attend non-formal education programmes. Approximately three-quarters of the respondents (75.1%, compared to 63.7% in 2008) stated that they did or had not attended a course or training that was not included in the regular education curriculum: roughly a quarter of them (24.9%, compared to 33.9% in 2008) reported that they did or had received some form of non-formal education. The respondents had most frequently attended foreign language courses (39.7%), sports activities (26.1%) and training in computer science (15.3%). For a more detailed review of the results on the different forms of non-formal education that respondents received see Graph 3.

Respondents in 2008 reported attending courses and or training much more frequently than those in 2011/2012; this also applies to the respondents from the general population relative to those belonging to vulnerable groups.

Graph 3: What was the basic theme of the training? (Courses and training that were not a part of the regular education curriculum)



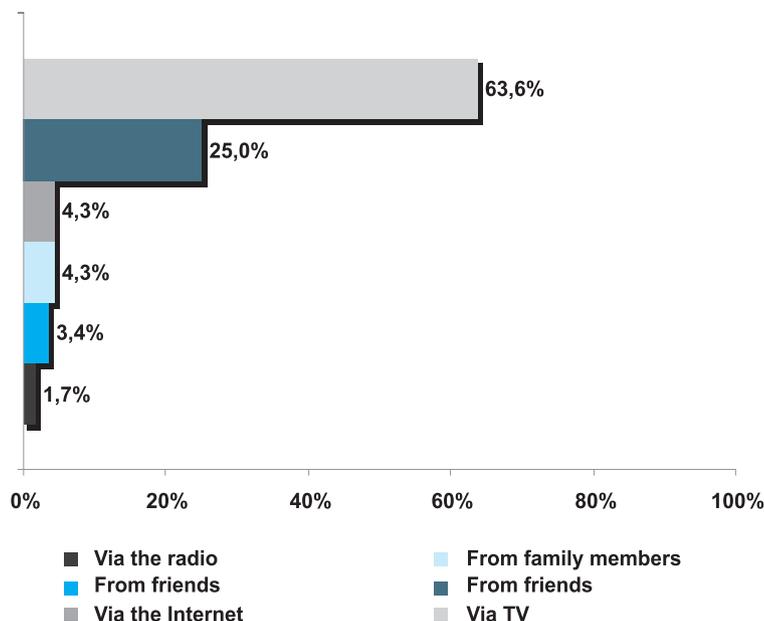
The second wave of respondents was also asked about lifelong learning. Slightly more than half (56.7%) of the respondents were familiar with this concept, while a somewhat lower percentage (51.2%) reported being ready for a career change, namely to receive some form of new training in order to pursue a new career/occupation. Respondents belonging to the general population were more often familiar with the concept of lifelong learning as compared to those from vulnerable groups (59.7%, compared to 39.2% vulnerable groups) and were more willing to pursue a new career (52.1%, compared to 45.7% vulnerable groups).

The conclusion that education outside of the formal education sector is not a common practice for young people in BiH points primarily to the fact that it is necessary to determine the reasons why young people do not attend such programmes, in order to be able to react to them. Non formal education programmes play a significant role when it comes to lifelong learning and acquiring new professional competencies that will allow young people to be more competitive within a labour market that continues to impose increasingly complex demands upon them.

2.2.3 Awareness and Ways of becoming Informed

When considering the sources of information that young people most commonly use (see Graph 4) it became evident that television is the most important source of information for young people: 63.6% of respondents stated that television is their main source for obtaining information. A quarter of respondents (25.0%) cited the Internet, while other sources of information were much less commonly reported. Whereas respondents belonging to the general population far more frequently (27.3%) stated that they obtained informed via the Internet (11.9% of respondents belonging to vulnerable groups) it was far more common for respondents from vulnerable groups to report friends (11.4%) and family members (10.8%) as sources of information (compared to 3.0% and 2.1% respectively for respondents from the general population).

Graph 4: How do you generally get informed about developments in your country?



According to the obtained data, television and the Internet are the most important media for young people. Consequently, it is via these two media that educational and other efforts should be directed towards young people.

Gender Differences in Education

It appears that women in BiH are more adapted to the existing education system, when compared to the men, and they perceive that they receive more support when it comes to education. Male respondents far more often (9.0%, compared to 6.8% of female respondents) reported that they had to repeat a grade during their education. In addition, within the context of education, male respondents much more often (in comparison to female respondents) stated that most teachers did not take them seriously and were not interested in their work; they also stated that they did not receive any support from their parents and that their results were not important to their parents.

These differences between men and women in BiH also apply to non-formal education. It was far more common for male respondents to report that they were or had been engaged in non-formal education programmes for sport and computer science, while female respondents were much more likely to report learning foreign languages and arts. Finally, it was far more common for male respondents to report obtaining information through the print media compared to female respondents.

2.3 LABOUR MARKET AND ECONOMIC STATUS

Taking into account the current situation within the labour market it seemed interesting to examine the employment status of young people in BiH, as one of the most important aspects of young peoples' lives. Slightly more than one-fifth (21.9%) of respondents claimed that they were employed (full-time, part-time or on their own farm) and that they were currently not looking for a job (in 2008 the same answer was given by 27.3% of respondents). If we take into account only young adults (over 18) 28.0% of them reported being employed and that they were not seeking a job.

Young people belonging to the general population reported far more often that they had a full-time job (21.9%), relative to those young people belonging to vulnerable groups (11.1%).

2.3.1 Experiences of Employed Respondents

A number of questions were posed to the employed respondents concerning their experiences when getting a job and the work they currently performed.

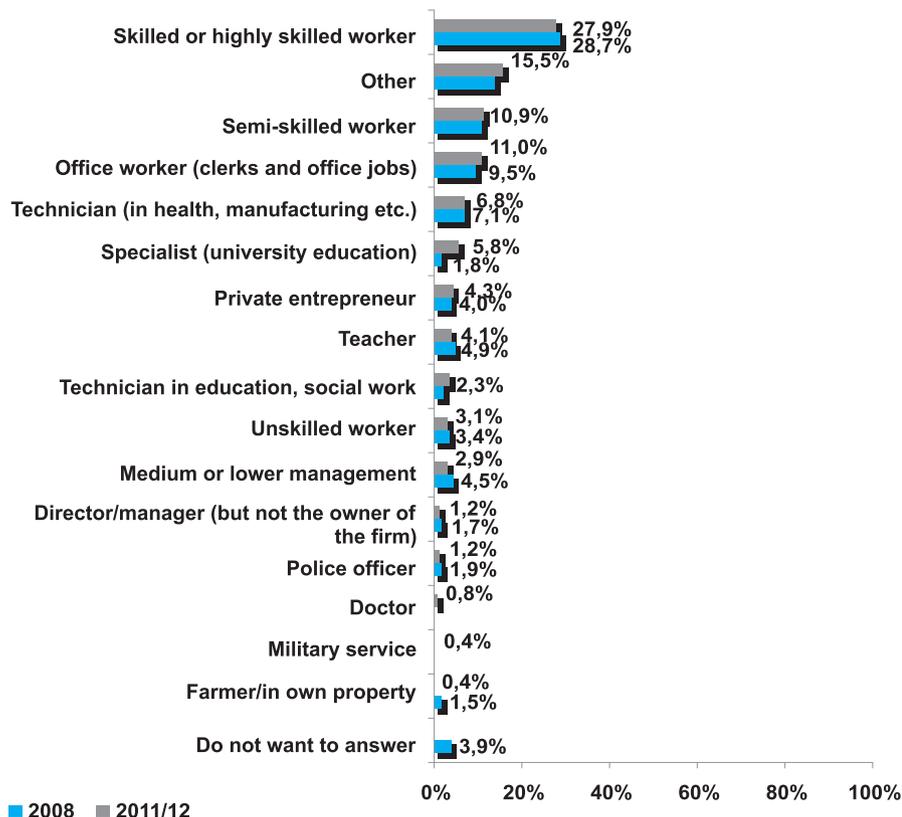
On average, it took more than a year for respondents to find a job after they had finished their school/university education. The respondents stated that they had spent 16 months looking for a job after finishing their education, which is a significant increase compared to the average in 2008 (11 months). Given the relatively long period of job-seeking it is not surprising that approximately one-third of young people did not believe that the education they completed or were about to complete would make it easier for them to obtain a job.

A relatively low percentage of those employed (4.8%) reported that the work they performed required additional knowledge and skills to those they already possessed; the latter percentage was much higher in 2008 (15.9%).

Considering the occupations of young people (see Graph 5), the highest percentage of respondents stated that they were office workers or skilled, namely highly skilled workers (39.0% in 2011/2012 compared to 38.2% in 2008). A relatively low percentage of respondents were directors, managers or entrepreneurs (8.3% in 2011/2012 compared to 10.2% in 2008). In addition, a relatively low percentage of respondents had attempted to start their own business (5.9%, compared to 6.6% in 2008), among them were significantly more male (8.3%) than female respondents (3.6%). Furthermore, considerably more respondents reported that they worked as specialists in 2011/2012 (professions that required a university education, such as journalists, lawyers and writers), when compared to 2008. The latter is to be expected since data from the new wave of research shows that there are more highly educated young people than in the previous wave.

Respondents belonging to vulnerable groups stated much more frequently that they were employed as semi-skilled workers (25.0%), compared to young people from the general population (9.8%). This leads to the conclusion that vulnerable groups in society in BiH have an unequal status.

Graph 5: Which category of occupation does your job belongs to? (Comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012)

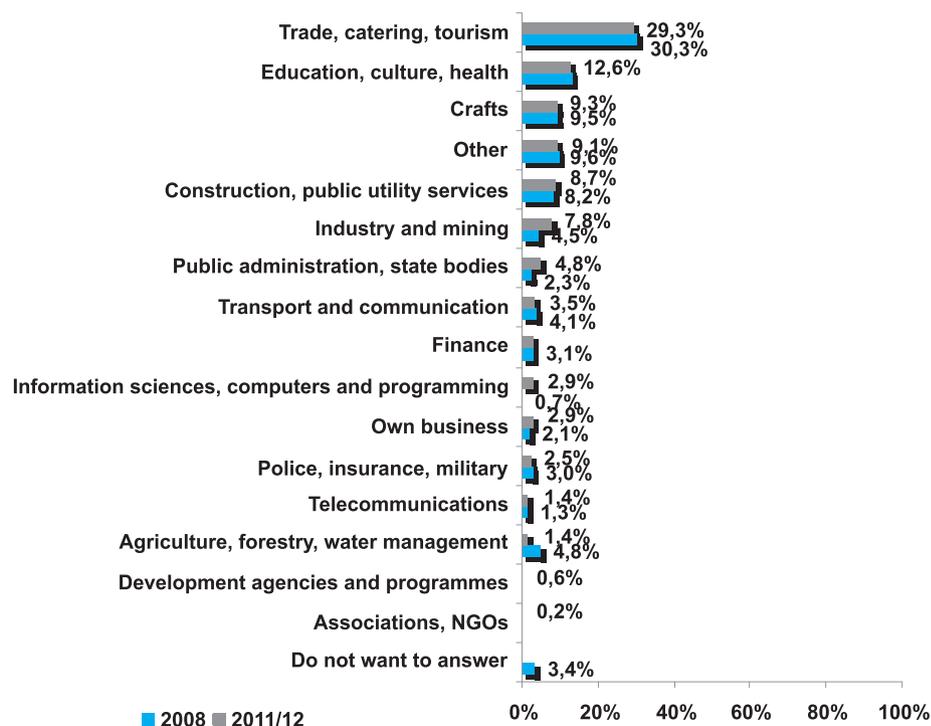


With regard to the forms of contracts with employers, the highest percentage of respondents (55.2% in 2011/2012 and 49.8% in 2008) stated that they signed a permanent employment contract. A significantly higher percentage of respondents worked without a contract in 2008 (18.7%) than in 2011/2012 (13.0%), whereas more respondents in 2011/2012 signed temporary contracts as compared to 2008 (17.9%). A relatively low percentage of respondents worked based on trial period contracts (2.7% in 2011/2012 compared to 2.9% in 2008) and other forms of contracts (2.1% in 2011/2012 compared to 1.0% in 2008).

Concerning employment without a contract, the respondents belonging to vulnerable groups were far more likely to find themselves in this situation (22.9%) compared to respondents from the general population (12.0%). It is obvious that illicit work is still present in BiH, in spite of certain actions targeted at its elimination. Further activity in this regard is evidently required in order to adequately protect the rights of all workers in the country.

The young people were most frequently employed in the sectors of trade, catering, tourism or recreation (29.3%, compared to 30.3% in 2008), whereas, relative to other sectors (with the exception of trade/catering/tourism/recreation) a somewhat higher percentage were employed in the education, culture, health and social protection sectors (12.6% in 2011/12 compared to 13.3% in 2008). While in 2008 the respondents more frequently stated that they worked in agriculture, forestry, fishery or water management in 2011/2012 they cited the sectors of industry and mining, public administration/state bodies/political parties and information sciences much more often. For more detailed information on the sectors where young people in BiH are employed see Graph 6.

Graph 6: What is your main job at your workplace and what type of business or company is it? (Comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012)



Although it appears that the position of young people has improved somewhat in terms of regular wages and contributions on salaries the rights of some young people are still being violated and this requires attention and intervention. Most of those respondents who were employed received their salary regularly every month (89.0%, compared to 80.7% in 2008), which is significantly more frequent in 2011/12 than in 2008. In comparison to 11.8% in 2008, 9.5% of respondents in 2011/2012 stated that they received

their salary but not every month, while 1.6% of respondents reported that they were not paid regularly (compared to 4.8% of respondents in 2008). In comparison to 2008, in 2011/2012 respondents reported significantly more often that their employers either regularly paid other mandatory contributions on their salary (78.5% in 2011/2012 compared to 63.7% in 2008) or paid these contributions irregularly (12.2% and 7.6%, respectively). In 2008 the respondents reported more frequently that their employers did not pay contributions: 16.4% in 2008 as compared to 9.3% in 2011/2012. Respondents belonging to vulnerable groups also stated more often that their contributions on salaries were not paid regularly (18.8%), relative to respondents from the general population (8.3%).

In 2011/2012 respondents stated more often (50.2%) that they were employed in their chosen profession than in 2008 (37.4%). A quarter of the respondents (25.0%) answered 'Not really' to this question, while 21.7% of respondents answered 'Not at all'. A relatively low percentage of the respondents were unable to assess whether they worked in their chosen profession (3.1%). The fact that only half of the employed respondents worked in their own profession is devastating and supports the opinion amongst young people that education cannot guarantee that they will find a job in their chosen field, at least not an adequate job. This piece of information also indicates the need for lifelong learning and development for young people and this in turn can be linked to the need for their more active engagement in non-formal education, in order to improve their skills and competencies and make young people more competitive in the labour market.

2.3.2 Experiences of Unemployed Respondents

A number of questions were posed to unemployed respondents in order to examine their perspectives, situation, attitudes and opinions regarding the labour market.

Almost two-thirds of respondents in 2011/2012 (64.2%, compared to 56.0% in 2008) believed that governments did not care about the unemployed and that they were left on their own: this opinion was more frequently reported in 2011/2012 than in 2008 and was more prevalent amongst vulnerable groups (75.3%) than in the general population (62.0%). Slightly more than one-third of respondents (33.3% in 2011/2012 compared to 37.9% in 2008) believed that government only talked about this problem but put insufficient effort into tackling the actual problem of unemployment. A low percentage of respondents (2.5% in 2011/2012 and 3.3% in 2008) believed that government was doing everything in its power to solve this issue. In general it appears that unemployed young people do not believe that authorities are working to solve the problem of unemployment in the country.

Although most of the unemployed respondents had not worked, either part-time or occasionally, during the previous six months (83.6%, compared to 77.5% in 2008) some of them had been employed (16.4%, compared to 20.8% in 2008). The respondents worked significantly more often on this basis in 2008 than in 2011/2012 and therefore it can be concluded that it has become more difficult to find even part-time or occasional employment in BiH.

The respondents in 2011/2012 reported that they had on average 5 months of recorded employment, compared to 8 months in 2008. With regard to unregistered work, the respondents reported on average 5 months of unregistered employment compared to 9 months in 2008. (Please note: a high percentage of respondents - more than 80% in 2008 - refused to answer the question on work experience and this had an effect on the average figure). Furthermore, general population respondents stated that they had more months of both registered and unregistered employment (the arithmetic mean was 6 months in both cases) than those respondents belonging to vulnerable groups (2 months of registered and 2 months of unregistered experience).

It also appears that many unemployed young people are not looking for a job at all. Most respondents had not actively searched for a job during the previous months (65.5%), while the respondents belonging to vulnerable groups reported significantly more often that they were not actively seeking a job (76.3%) relative to general population (63.0%). Slightly more than one-third of the respondents (34.5%, compared to 22.6% in 2008) had been looking for a job during the previous four weeks. If we take into account only adult respondents then most were searching for a job (67.6%), while approximately one-third (32.4%) were not looking for a job. Most of the respondents (65.2%) stated that they had not used the Internet to search for a job during the previous month. Respondents from vulnerable groups far more

often stated that they had not used the Internet to search for a job during the previous month (78.4%), compared to respondents from the general population (62.8%). In regard to the aforementioned issue, it is necessary to determine the causes for young people not seeking employment.

When it came to looking for a job in a particular sector the highest percentage of unemployed respondents, including school and university pupils/students, stated that they were not looking for a job at all (61.9%, compared to 48.0% in 2008). Most job seeking respondents, approximately two-thirds of them, stated that they were not looking for a job in a specific sector and that they would accept a job in any sector (66.5%). Out of the job seeking respondents 14.5% stated that they were looking for a job in a specific sector, while 19.0% of respondents would not accept a job in any sector. The respondents from vulnerable groups were less selective concerning types of employment. When comparing the general population and vulnerable groups it became evident that the respondents from vulnerable groups significantly more often (83.5%, compared to the general population respondents 63.4%) stated that they would take a job in any sector.

If we exclude school and university pupils/students, approximately a quarter of the unemployed respondents (25.7%) stated that they were not looking for a job. Half of the young people (50.2%) would take a job in any sector, while 10.6% of young people were looking for a job in a specific sector. Finally, 13.5% of respondents were not looking for a job in a specific sector but would not accept a job in any sector.

In regard to the sectors in which the respondents would prefer to work (see Table 4), the highest percentage of respondents, slightly less than half, were interested in working in the sectors of trade, catering, tourism and recreation (45.4%, compared to 34.4% in 2008). These were followed by the construction industry and public utility services (25.2%, compared to 13.8% in 2008) and trades and crafts (23.8%, compared to 19.4% in 2008).

Table 4: Please state at least one, but not more than three, sectors you would be interested in working in? (Comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012)

Sectors in which the respondents were interested in working	Wave of research	
	2008	2011/12
Agriculture, forestry, fishery and water management	10.1%	16.7%
Industry and mining	11.8%	16.2%
Construction, public utility services	13.8%	25.2%
Crafts	19.4%	23.8%
Transport and communication	14.4%	13.7%
Trade, catering, tourism and recreation	34.4%	45.4%
Own business, such as hairdressers and barbers, and housemaids	13.7%	12.8%
Finance	8.8%	11.7%
Education, culture, health and social protection	13.7%	17.2%
Police, insurance, the military	9.3%	10.5%
Public administration, state bodies and political parties	12.8%	17.1%
Associations, non-governmental organisations	5.9%	6.0%
Telecommunications	12.6%	8.4%
Informatics sciences, computers and programming	9.4%	5.4%
Development agencies and programmes	4.0%	2.8%
Other	9.0%	13.0%
Do not know	25.7%	0.1%

With regard to those sectors for which there was interest, there were significant differences between the respondents from vulnerable groups and those from the general population. Respondents from vulnerable groups significantly more often cited agriculture, forestry, fishery and water management

(25.9%), the construction industry and public utility services (37.0%) and trades and crafts (31.5%) as compared to the general population (15.0%, 23.1% and 22.4% respectively). General population respondents stated much more often that they would like to work in finance and services (13.3%, compared to 2.8% vulnerable groups), public administration, state bodies and political parties (19.2%, compared to 5.6% vulnerable groups).

Respondents claimed that they would be willing to work for a net salary of 614 BAM on average, which is a much higher amount relative to the average total stated in 2008 (467 BAM). Respondents belonging to vulnerable groups stated that they would work for a lower average salary (512 BAM) compared to those from the general population (633 BAM).

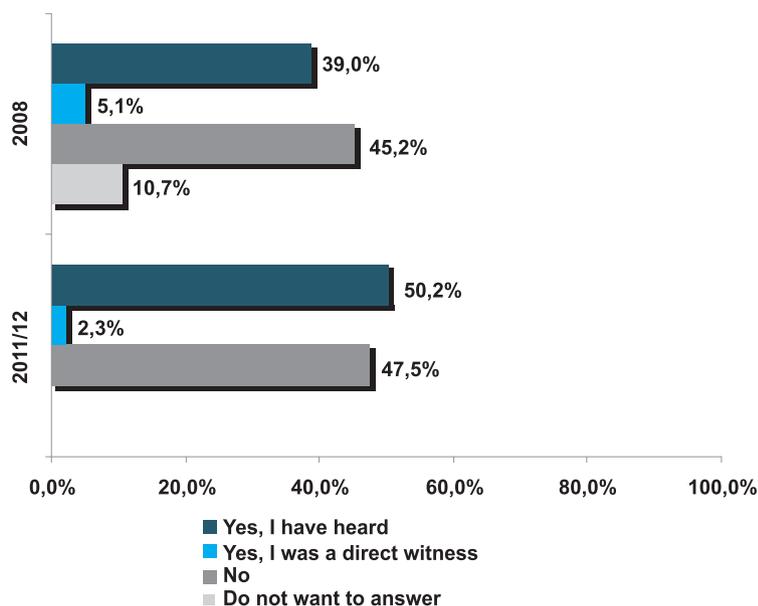
Out of the unemployed respondents 81.0% claimed that they had never had a job. Those who had worked had been without a job for on average 26 months, while 41.6% of unemployed respondents were not registered with the employment bureau, mainly because they were school or university pupils/students (79.1%). Of those who were not school or university pupils/students most were registered with the employment bureau (82.8%), although a considerable number were not registered at all.

2.3.3 Other Experiences in the Labour Market and Employment Programmes

According to the obtained data, young people rarely take a job outside of their municipality of residence or abroad. A relatively low percentage of respondents had gained some work experience in BiH outside of their municipality of residence: 3.3% of respondents (compared to 3.1% in 2008) had worked outside of their municipality for more than one year, while 3.4% had worked for a shorter period (compared to 2.8% in 2008.). Even less respondents had worked outside of BiH: 2.4% (compared to 1.3% in 2008) had worked abroad for more than one year, while 2.0% (compared to 1.9% in 2008) had worked abroad for a shorter period. Although a relatively low percentage of respondents reported that they had worked abroad for more than one year respondents from the general population stated that they had done so significantly more often (2.6%) than those from vulnerable groups (0.9%).

Respondents were asked several questions about obtaining jobs in an illegal manner i.e., by buying a job and through bribery. Approximately half of the respondents had heard about buying jobs and more than half of them believed that bribery exists when it comes to getting a job. The highest percentage of respondents, approximately half (50.2%), reported that they had heard of cases of buying a job, while 2.3% claimed that they were direct witnesses of such a case, whereas 47.5% have never heard of nor witnessed such a case (see Graph 7).

Graph 7: Have you ever been a witness to someone buying a job or have you heard that a person paid a certain sum of money to get a job? (Comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012)



Concerning bribery in order to get a job within public administration, the majority of respondents (61.6%, compared to 54.3% in 2008) believed that bribery is present in most cases and approximately one-third (34.0%, compared to 19.5% in 2008) believed that such a practice exists but infrequently. A relatively low percentage of respondents believed that such a practice does not exist (4.4%, compared to 3.7% in 2008). With regard to bribery in order to get a job in private companies, approximately half of the respondents believed that this practice is present in most cases (50.4%, the same as in 2008) and a high percentage (43.0%, compared to 23.2% in 2008) believed that such a practice exists but infrequently. A relatively low percentage of respondents (6.6%, compared to 3.9% in 2008) believed that the aforementioned practice in private companies does not exist. The respondents from vulnerable groups significantly more often believed that there is no practice of bribery in public administration (8.5%) or in private companies (10.5%), relative to general population respondents (3.7% and 5.9%, respectively). Furthermore, the highest percentage of respondents either partly or fully agreed that female persons are discriminated against within the labour market (45.3%, compared to 34.1% in 2008), while female respondents agreed with the existence of discrimination more frequently (56.4%) than the male respondents (33.9%).

Given these attitudes and perceptions amongst young people, the idea of their apathy is not surprising and neither is the fact that many of them are not active job seekers. It is necessary to emphasise that the concepts of 'bribery' and 'discrimination' were not specifically explained in the questionnaire or in some other way to the respondents. Since certain forms of bribery are relatively common within BiH society it is possible that the respondents did not take these forms of bribery into consideration when answering the questions and this could have affected the reduction in the percentage of respondents who reported that they had heard of or believed that bribery exists.

Slightly more than a quarter of respondents (27.0%, compared to 19.1% in 2008) had heard of some government employment programmes yet the majority of respondents (73.0%, compared to 80.1% in 2008) had not heard of such programmes. The general population respondents reported more frequently that they had heard of one or some of these programmes (28.6%), relative to respondents from vulnerable groups (17.9%). A relatively low percentage of respondents (13.8%) had heard of CISO centres (Centres for information, counselling and training) within the employment bureaus and respondents from vulnerable groups much less frequently (5.1% compared to 15.3%), while 19.1% of respondents reported that they had visited such centres to ask for advice. 8.5% of respondents were beneficiaries of an employment programme, compared to 4.6% in 2008.

More than half (55.0%) of the respondents, regardless of their employment status, believed that they possessed sufficient knowledge and skills to find an appropriate job, whereas 45.0% of respondents believed that they lacked specific skills and that they did not have the required knowledge. Respondents from vulnerable groups reported on a lack of skills and knowledge significantly more often (61.1%), compared to general population respondents (42.1%). It appears that vulnerable groups could be particularly suited to implementation of non-formal education programmes in order to develop their existing and acquire new professional skills.

Gender Differences within the Context of Work and Employment

Within the context of job seeking, female respondents more often (3.3%) than male (2.4%) reported that they were not actively seeking for a job and that they were housewives (4.9%, compared to 0.1% of male respondents) and students (19.8%, compared to 15.8% of male respondents). Gender differences amongst the employed respondents are also interesting. While male respondents were significantly more often private entrepreneurs (6.4%, compared to 1.4% female respondents) and employed as skilled or highly skilled workers (32.8%, compared to 21.2% female respondents), female respondents were more often employed as technicians in health services and manufacturing or as medical nurses and similar (11.5%, compared to 3.3% male respondents). Female respondents worked more frequently (62.2%) based on permanent position contracts, compared to men (50.2%).

Men and women in BiH work in different sectors. While male respondents more frequently reported working in the sectors of industry and mining, construction and public utility services, trades and crafts, the police, insurance and the military, female respondents more frequently reported being employed in the

sectors of trade, catering, tourism, recreation, education, culture, health and social protection. Unemployed men believed more often than unemployed women that unemployed persons in BiH are left on their own and had more frequently worked on a temporary or part-time basis during the six months prior to the research. Unemployed men also significantly more often than unemployed women stated that they had been looking for a job during the previous 4 weeks (39.6%, compared to 26.1%). Male respondents claimed far more often that they would accept any job (30.9%, compared to 19.7% female), whereas the female respondents were more selective and only sought employment in specific sectors (6.9%, compared to 4.5%) or stated that they were not seeking a job at all (65.5%, compared to 57.9%).

Relative to the female respondents, male respondents preferred employment in the sectors of agriculture, forestry, fishery, water management and industry and mining, construction and public utility services, crafts, the police, insurance and the military. Female respondents, much more so than their male counterparts, preferred to work in the sectors of trade, catering, tourism, recreation and small independent business, such as hairdressers and housemaids, as well as finance and services, and education, culture, health, social protection and public administration, state bodies and political parties as well as associations and NGOs.

Male respondents worked outside of their municipality of residence much more often than female respondents and this also applied to working outside of BiH. Male respondents also believed much more often than female respondents that they had sufficient skills and knowledge to find an appropriate job.

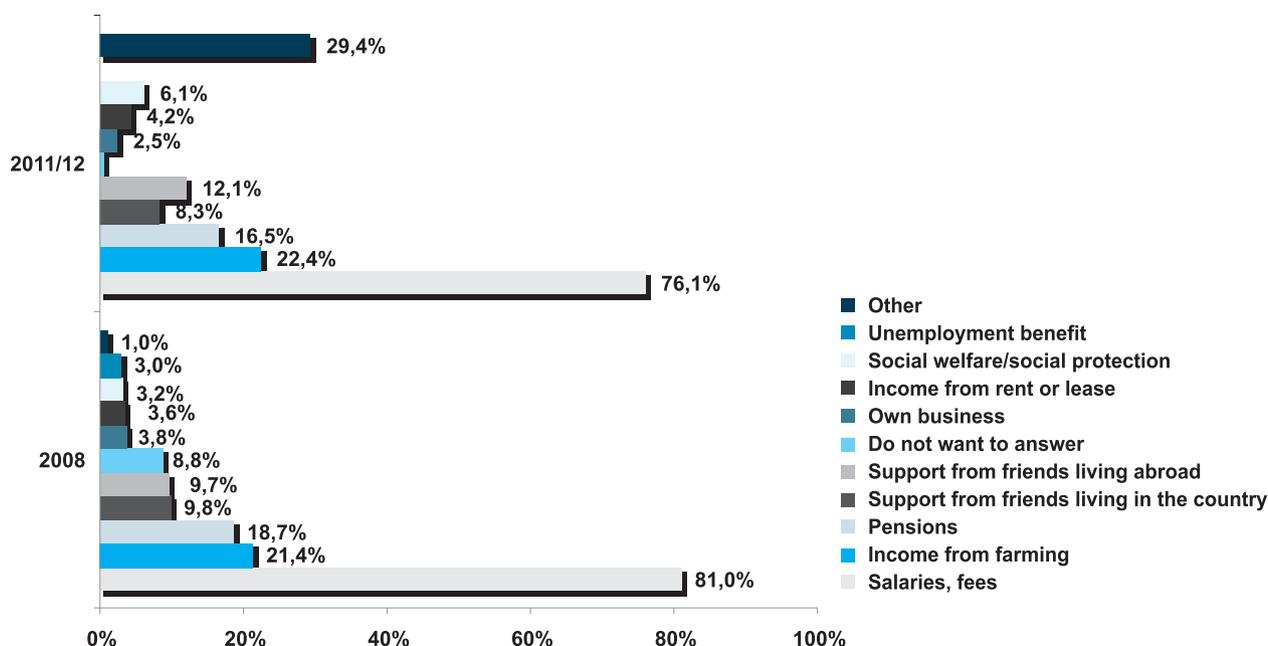
2.3.5 Economic Status of Young People

In 2011/2012 most young people (61.7%, compared to 53.3% in 2008) did not contribute to their household income on a regular basis. Approximately one-fifth of respondents (22.2%, compared to 20.4% in 2008) regularly contributed to their household budget, while 16.1% (the same percentage was established in the previous wave of research in 2008) did contribute but not on a regular basis. If we take into account only adult respondents then the number of those who contribute has increased significantly (46.2%): (27.4%) of young adults contributing to their household budget regularly and (18.8%) irregularly.

Young people disposed of relatively small amounts of money; on average, respondents had personally disposed of 232 BAM during the previous three months (a similar amount of 236 BAM was available to them in 2008). During the previous three months general population respondents disposed of a higher amount: 243 BAM on average, relative to respondents from vulnerable groups who on average disposed of 172 BAM. During the previous month, slightly more than one-third of respondents had a total income, from all sources, of up to 500 BAM (35.8%, compared to 23.8% in 2008), while half of them had an income of up to 800 BAM (50.8%, compared to 32.1% in 2008). Respondents from vulnerable groups reported significantly more often that they had received up to 300 BAM during the previous month (34.4%), relative to general population (19.1%), whereas general population respondents far more frequently reported receiving income ranging between 900 BAM and 1,200 BAM (9.5%, compared to 2.8% in vulnerable groups). Generally, it appears that vulnerable groups earn less compared to the general population of young people (see Graph 8).

Salaries and fees were the most important sources of income in respondent households (76.1%, compared to 81.0% in 2008), but it appears that agricultural estates were also important sources of income for some respondents (22.4%, compared to 21.4% in 2008) as well as pensions (16.5%, compared to 18.7% in 2008). In addition, 29.4% of respondents reported that other sources of income, apart from the aforementioned, were important for their households. Relative to 2008, in 2011/2012 respondents far more frequently cited social protection, support from relatives and friends who lived abroad and other sources of support. While general population respondents more frequently reported income from salaries (81.1%, compared to 47.4% in vulnerable groups), rent (4.7% compared to 1.1% in vulnerable groups) and from agriculture (23.6% compared to 15.6% in vulnerable groups) respondents belonging to vulnerable groups more commonly reported pensions (23.9%, compared to 15.2% in the general population), social welfare/other forms of social protection (33.0%, compared to 1.3% in the general population) and support from relatives and friends from abroad (16.2%, compared to 11.4% in the general population). It appears that social welfare and support from relatives and friends from abroad are needed more by young people today than three years ago.

Graph 8: Which amount corresponds to your total personal income during the past month, from all sources?
(Comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012)



A relatively low percentage (4.3%) of young people received scholarships (3.9% in 2008), of which 3.0% (2.2% in 2008) received scholarships from municipalities. The percentage of young people receiving scholarships from a canton, a company or some other scholarship was even lower (0.6%, 0.3% and 0.4%, respectively), while none of the respondents had received a scholarship from one of the entities. The average amount of scholarship was 167 BAM, whereas in 2008 the average amount was significantly higher at 317 BAM. In comparison to 2011/2012, a considerably higher number of respondents refused to answer this question in 2008: 0.0% and 19.1% respectively. Given that relatively few respondents received scholarships the abovementioned statement that young people want and request changes, particularly in this respect, does not come as a surprise.

A relatively low percentage of respondents, or their partners, reported being able to save a certain sum of money each month: 12.5%, compared to 0.0% in 2008. General population respondents reported significantly more often that they managed to do this (13.4%), relative to those respondents belonging to vulnerable groups (11.4%). The majority of young people did not take any loans; however, 9.0% of respondents stated that they had taken personal loans, most frequently consumer loans (52.0%), followed by housing loans (17.0%), loans for car purchase (16.0%) and other loans (14.6%). Although a relatively low percentage of respondents took loans those that did were more commonly young people from the general population (9.7%) than young people from vulnerable groups (4.8%). Given the relatively low percentage of young people who were employed it does not come as a surprise that most of the respondents were unable to save money and that most of them did not take a loan.

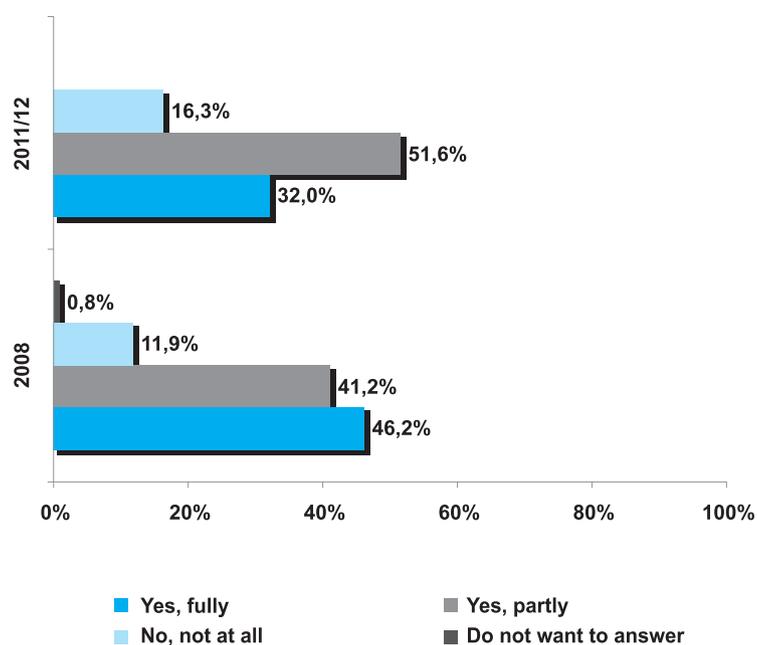
Some gender differences have also been established in regard to the economic status of young people, namely, male respondents were more often (27.0%) those who contributed to the household budget (regularly or irregularly) compared to female respondents (17.7%). Male respondents also disposed of more money (247 BAM on average) over the three months period prior to the research, relative to female respondents (219 BAM). Women received scholarships to a greater extent (5.4%) than men (3.1%).

2.4 SOCIAL PROTECTION

Within this research respondents were also asked questions to determine their experiences in relation to social protection.

When it came to their visits to centres for social work to obtain information most of the respondents stated that they had not visited such centres during the past six months (93.5%, compared to 94.2% in 2008), while a relatively low percentage of respondents had visited these centres (6.5%, compared to 5.4% in 2008). Those respondents who belonged to vulnerable groups had made significantly more visits to centres for social work (21.3%), relative to the general population (3.9%). While doing so, the highest number of respondents received only partial information (51.6%, compared to 41.2% in 2008), while one-third of them (32.0%, compared to 46.2% in 2008) received full information regarding the issue that had caused them to visit the centre for social work (see Graph 9). Therefore, it can be concluded that these centres do not provide adequate services to their beneficiaries.

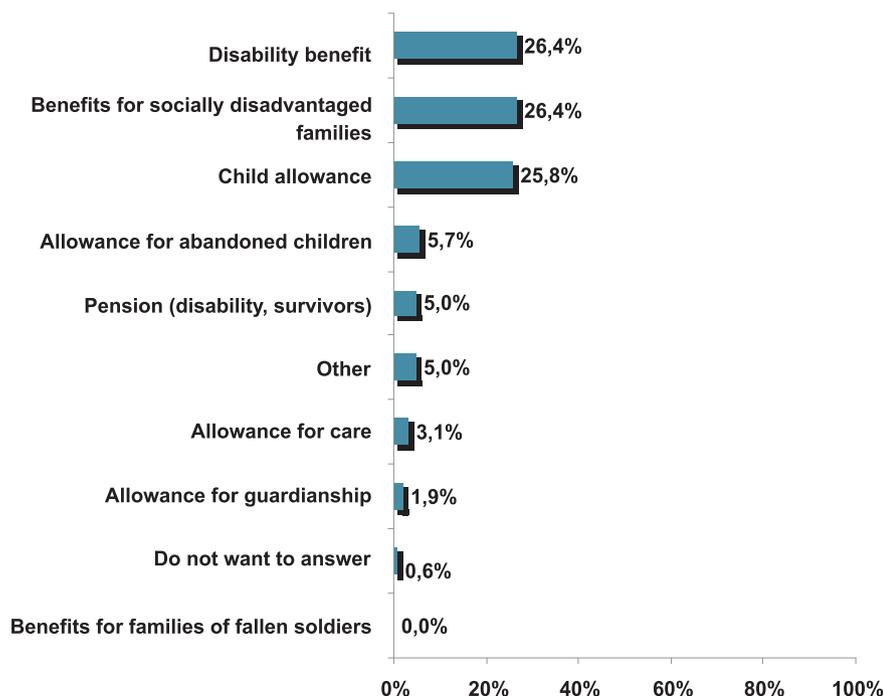
Graph 9: Did you receive the information you needed (at the centre for social work)? (Comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012)



A relatively low percentage of respondents were beneficiaries of social welfare (6.7%, compared to 2.1% in 2008), while most of them did not receive this type of support. Respondents from vulnerable groups received social welfare to a significantly higher degree (34.7%) compared to those from the general population (1.8%). Beneficiaries most often received disability and other special needs benefits (26.4%), financial assistance for the socially disadvantaged (26.4%) and child allowance (25.8%).

For more detailed information on the types of social welfare that the respondents received see Graph 10.

Out of the respondents to this survey 4.2% stated that they were persons with a certain level of disability.



More than half of these respondents reported that disability creates huge or significant obstacles to employment and work (65.0%), restricts their access to fun and recreation clubs/associations (57.0%), access to nature (57.0%) and public administration institutions (55.0%). In terms of education, slightly more than half of the respondents (51.0%) reported either few or no obstacles at all caused by disability. It is obvious that the society in BiH is not sensitised enough to the problems of this category of persons and that consequently many of the disabled face numerous challenges in their daily lives.

It also appears that social protection for young people in BiH is generally inadequate and has many shortcomings and inefficient solutions. Although the new Law on Social Protection, which should be adopted by the end of the current year, may provide better and more practical solutions than the existing ones it will be necessary to oversee its consistent implementation.

2.4.1. Need for Counselling Services

A relatively low percentage of respondents reported that they had required counselling services during the six months prior to the survey. The need for counselling services was most frequently mentioned within the context of job seeking (13.2%, compared to 20.7% in 2008); this was followed by learning problems (8.9%, compared to 7.1% in 2008) and education opportunities (7.1%, compared to 13.1% in 2008).

For more detailed information on the counselling services that the respondents sought see Table 5.

The respondents belonging to vulnerable groups reported significantly more often that during the previous six months they had required counselling services on reproductive health (9.1%), relative to general population respondents (5.1%). On the other hand and within this context, general population respondents more often reported counselling on lending options (6.1%, compared to 3.4% in vulnerable groups). Generally speaking, it appears that most of the young people did not believe that they could benefit from any kind of counselling services.

Table 5: Did you personally have a need for counselling services during the previous six months in relation to the listed problems and themes? (Comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012)

	2008		2011/12	
	No	Yes	No	Yes
Learning difficulties	91.9%	7.1%	90.9%	8.9%
Problems in the family/Domestic violence	96.7%	2.5%	97.1%	2.7%
Reproductive health	93.1%	6.1%	94.1%	5.7%
Family planning	93.5%	5.7%	94.7%	5.0%
Problems related to substance or drug abuse/alcohol	96.6%	2.6%	96.9%	2.8%
Career choice/professional orientation	91.2%	8.1%	94.2%	5.6%
Job seeking	78.5%	20.7%	86.6%	13.2%
Starting own trade/craft/business	94.2%	5.0%	94.0%	5.8%
Psychological problems	96.6%	2.2%	95.1%	4.7%
Rights and obligations of young people and their role in society	90.9%	8.3%	94.4%	5.4%
Sexual exploitation/abuse	96.7%	1.9%	97.8%	1.9%
Opportunities for education	86.0%	13.1%	92.7%	7.1%
Opportunities for loans	90.1%	8.9%	93.9%	5.7%

2.5 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT IN THE NGO SECTOR

Only 16.8% of the respondents reported that they were interested in politics to some extent. Respondents from the general population were by far more interested in politics (17.9%) relative to respondents from the vulnerable groups (10.5%). Female respondents stated more frequently (47.2%) than male respondents (37.1%) that they were not interested in politics at all.

When asked about which groups they believed they had an influence on in terms of their general participation in decision making the majority of respondents (76.5%, compared to 72.1% in 2008) believed that they had most influence over their own households or within their family, followed by their peers and friends (74.4%, compared to 76.0% in 2008). Approximately half of the respondents (51.0%, compared to 39.8% in 2008) believed that they had influence at their workplace or in school or college. Fewer respondents believed that they had influence in their local community (19.1%, compared to 17.7% in 2008) and political and non-governmental organisations (8.6%, compared to 10.0% in 2008). Far more respondents from the general population believed that they had more influence over all or any of the aforementioned groups than the respondents from vulnerable groups; the only exception being political and non-governmental organisations, where they perceived no significant difference between the general population and vulnerable groups. It was more common for female respondents to assess that they had no more influence over their local community or over political organisations and NGOs than men.

Two-thirds of respondents (66.6%) reported having the right to vote in previous elections, while 59.7% of those respondents (compared to 57.3% in 2008) had actually voted in past elections. The respondents in 2011/2012 stated significantly more often that they had not voted in previous elections (40.3%), relative to 31.5% in 2008. Furthermore, it appears that the older the young people were the more likely it was that they would vote in elections: 31.8% of respondents aged 18-21 reported voting, 61.8% aged 22-25 and 77.9% of respondents aged 26-30. Concerning their education status, it was evident that university-educated young people voted more often (78.1%) than young people who had completed secondary school (59.0%). In comparison, the young people who had completed primary and lower level

education (42.6%) were less likely to vote. Moreover, those respondents who were employed voted more often (74.8%) compared to those who were unemployed (55.8%).

Respondents belonging to vulnerable groups reported significantly more often (56.6%) that they did not vote, compared to respondents from general population (37.6%).

The majority of respondents who had not voted were not willing to state the reasons why they had not voted (57.8%). Those who decided to report the reasons most frequently stated that they did not believe that anything would change (23.7%), 13.3% did not know which party to trust, 2.8% of the respondents could not vote due to work obligations, while 2.4% of the respondents reported being abroad during the elections. The fact that some respondents did not believe that by voting they could affect any change and that others did not know who to vote for is of major concern. This also reflects important factors affecting their general lack of interest in politics.

The majority of respondents (87.2%, compared to 84.3% in 2008) believed that young people have little or no influence at all on decisions made at the local level. A relatively low percentage of respondents believed that they could have a significant influence or could influence to some extent the aforementioned (12.8%, compared to 12.2% in 2008). Considerably more respondents from vulnerable groups believed that young people have no influence at all on decision-making at the local level (53.1%), compared to the general youth population (36.1%).

Most respondents had not contacted politicians during the previous 12 months, attended public gatherings, participated in public protests or public discussions on the municipal budget, gatherings of the local community council, signed a petition or collected signatures, participated in political discussions via the Internet or written an article in a newspaper or the Internet (see Table 6). Significantly more often, compared to the general population, respondents from vulnerable groups stated that they had never participated in any of the aforementioned activities, with the exception of participation in public discussions on the municipal budget and attendance at gatherings of the local community council. With regard to the latter, there was no significant difference between respondents from the general population and those from vulnerable groups.

Since the respondents did not believe that they could have any significant influence outside of the groups that were closest to them (family and friends) their lack of interest in politics and political organisations should not come as a surprise.

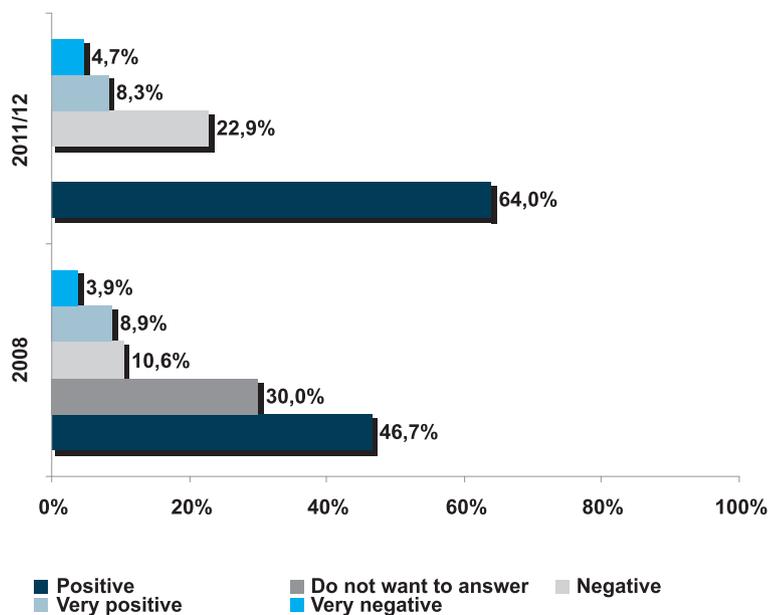
Table 6: *How many times have you participated in the following activities during the past 12 months?*

Forms of political participation	Frequency of political participation				
	Not even once	Once or twice	3 to 5 times	More than 5 times	Do not want to answer
Contacted a politician	93.5%	4.4%	1.1%	0.6%	0.4%
Attended a public gathering on political and social issues	91.6%	5.7%	1.7%	0.6%	0.5%
Signed a petition	89.2%	8.9%	1.5%	0.1%	0.3%
Collected signatures	92.9%	5.7%	1.0%	0.1%	0.3%
Participated in public protests	93.5%	5.0%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%
Contributed to political discussions on the Internet	90.9%	6.4%	1.7%	0.6%	0.3%
Wrote an article, namely in a pupil/student newspaper or on the Internet	93.0%	5.3%	1.1%	0.3%	0.4%
Participated in public discussions on the municipal budget	94.8%	3.5%	1.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Participated in meetings of the Local Community Council	92.3%	5.5%	1.1%	0.6%	0.4%

A relatively low percentage of the young people were members of organisations, whether youth, political or religious organisations. Those respondents who stated that they were members of one or more organisation most commonly reported belonging to a political party (9.1%), followed by youth organisations (7.3%) and youth organisations belonging to political parties (5.8%). It was more common for respondents from the general population to be members of political parties (10.2%), compared to young people belonging to vulnerable groups (3.1%). Considerably more female respondents were members of environmental and professional organisations compared to male respondents.

Graph 11 shows data on the attitudes of the respondents concerning the work of youth organisations. The majority of respondents had a positive opinion ('Positive' or 'Very positive') on the work of youth organisations in their city/municipality (72.3%, compared to 55.6% in 2008); however, the respondents from vulnerable groups far more often held a very negative opinion on this (8.0%), compared to respondents from the general population (4.2%).

Graph 11: What is your opinion of the work and projects of YOUTH organisations and associations in the territory of your municipality/ city? (Comparison between 2008 and 2011/2012)



Most young people were not engaged in voluntary activities and most commonly stated not being asked as the reason. Only 10.3% of the respondents voluntarily devoted their time and skills to work in the community/local organisation or a group; respondents from the general population were much more often involved (11.1%) compared to vulnerable groups (5.4%). The largest percentage of those respondents who donated their time did so once or twice per year (49.6%), while approximately one-fifth of respondents (20.2%) donated their time once per month. Approximately every fifth respondent (20.7%) volunteered once or several times per week, while 9.5% of them were engaged at this level only for a few months. The highest percentage of respondents who did not work on a voluntary basis gave the reason that nobody asked them to do so (38.9%). This reason was far more common amongst respondents from vulnerable groups (45.9%), compared to respondents from the general population (37.6%). Slightly less than a quarter of respondents cited a lack of time as the reason (24.4%); this reason was reported more often by respondents from the general population (26.4%, compared to 13.8% in vulnerable groups). This was followed by a lack of awareness concerning the possibilities for voluntary work (15.9%), lack of interest (15.1%), the attitude that voluntarism is a form of exploitation (2.3%) and that voluntary work has no effect at all (2.0%) and other reasons (1.4%).

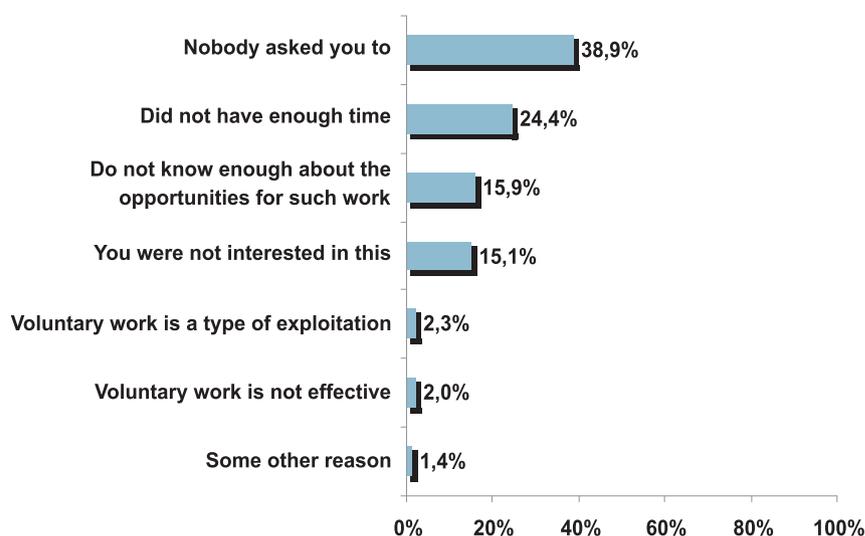
For additional information on the reasons given for not participating in voluntary work see Graph 12.

Most of the respondents stated that they would be interested in voluntary work if they had more information (78.3%). Some respondents believed it is important to recognise this type of work and provide legal protection for those who work as volunteers (16.8%). A relatively low percentage of respondents mentioned other conditions, such as acceptance of voluntary work by their peers (4.1%) and family (0.9%).

A considerably larger number of male respondents reported that they were not sufficiently interested in voluntary work, while female respondents more often stated that they would like to engage in voluntary work but required more information on the possibilities for voluntary activities within their local community.

It is evident that young people in BiH need to be better informed about the possibilities of voluntary work and more effort should be made to encourage them to engage in voluntary activities.

Graph 12: Please state which answer best describes the main reason why you did not voluntarily donate your time and skills to community work or work in an organisation or group?



2.6 LEISURE TIME AND YOUTH MOBILITY

It is also interesting to analyse the ways in which young people in BiH spend their free time.

According to the findings of the survey, young people in BiH spend most of their free time watching television, surfing the Internet and socialising (see Table 2). It seems that a relatively high percentage of the young people spent a lot of time in front of the television: 48.0% of respondents stated that they had watched television for 2-3 hours a day during the previous seven days and close to half of the respondents (47.5%) reported spending 2 or more hours a day on the Internet. The respondents spent a relatively substantial amount of time with their friends: 44.2% of them stated that during the last seven days they had spent 2-3 hours a day socialising. Almost half of the respondents (47.2%) spent up to one hour a day walking or other in recreational or sports activities, whereas around a quarter of respondents (25.5%) did not engage in such activities at all. Most respondents had not spent time in betting shops (76.6%) or in beauty salons (75.7%), whereas close to a fifth of respondents had spent up to one hour a day in such places (17.5 and 19.4%, respectively).

Table 7: On average, how many hours a day have you spent doing one or more of the listed activities?

	Not at all	One hour or less	2-3 hours	3-4 hours	4-5 hours	More than 5 hours	Do not want to answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Watched Television	4.0%	21.8%	48.0%	13.3%	6.3%	6.4%	0.3%
Went to a cafe/club or restaurant	23.3%	38.6%	27.3%	6.4%	2.0%	2.2%	0.3%
Read books	40.1%	33.7%	18.1%	4.3%	1.7%	1.9%	0.3%
Spent time on the Internet: facebook or other virtual social networks	21.7%	30.5%	30.6%	9.3%	4.2%	3.5%	0.3%
Spent time walking/in recreation/sports	25.5%	47.2%	22.3%	2.3%	1.1%	1.2%	0.3%
Visited friends/socialised/studied with friends	6.6%	38.9%	44.2%	6.4%	1.9%	1.7%	0.3%
Went to the a betting shop	76.6%	17.5%	4.1%	1.1%	0.3%	0.1%	0.3%
Went to a beauty salon	75.7%	19.4%	3.7%	0.5%	0.1%	0.2%	0.3%

A little over half of the young people stated that they had gone to the cinema or to a concert less than once a week during the previous month (56.1 and 55.2% respectively), while more than one-third had not engaged themselves in such activities at all (37.1% for cinema and 35.0% for concerts). The young people quite rarely attended the theatre: 36.9% of respondents had not been to the theatre during the previous month, 55.9% stated that they went to the theatre less than once a week and only 5.9% went to the theatre once a week or more frequently.

In regard to visiting sports events the respondents most frequently answered that they attended such events less than once a week (54.2%), whereas more than a quarter of respondents (28.6%) did not go to sports matches at all. When it came to sports betting shops the results were similar: 52.8% of respondents had visited them less than once a week and 28.7% did not visit them at all. Most young people responded that they had gone hiking less than once a week during the previous month (51.7%) and around one-third of respondents stated that they never went hiking (33.4%). When it came to shopping 67.9% of the young people had gone shopping at least once a week or more frequently. Around two-thirds of respondents stated that they studied less than once a week or not at all (64.1%), while around one-third (35.5%) reported that they studied at least once a week or more frequently. More than half of the respondents (55.4%) had spent time reading once a week or more frequently during the previous month. In regard to helping their parents, 59.5% of respondents helped with house chores at least once a week, whereas 43.5% of respondents helped in agricultural or business activities at least once a week.

The young people from vulnerable groups responded much more frequently that they had watched television for more than 5 hours a day over the previous seven days. When it came to other activities such as going to the cinema or to concerts and similar these respondents stated significantly more often, compared to the general population, that they did not engage in such activities (see Table 8).

Table 8: On average, how many hours a day have you spent doing one or more of the listed activities? (Comparison between young people from the general population and those from vulnerable groups: only the response 'Not at all')

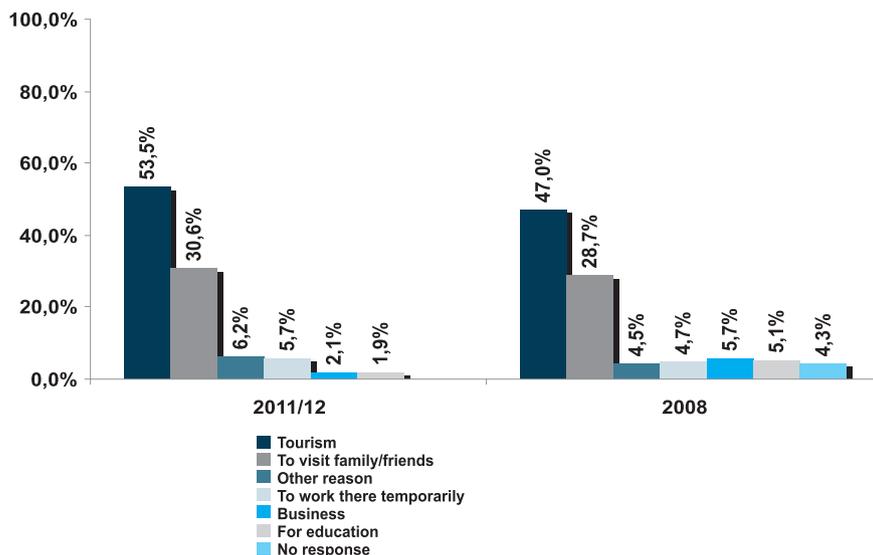
	Young people from the General population	Young people from Vulnerable groups
Went to the cinema	34.6%	51.4%
Went to concerts	32.6%	49.1%
Engaged in sports/recreational activities	23.1%	43.8%
Performed religious obligations	23.4%	41.2%
Went to the theatre	34.5%	50.6%
Studied	30.8%	41.2%
Went hiking	31.2%	46.0%
Went shopping	12.3%	25.0%
Visited sports matches	26.0%	43.2%
Went to betting shops/casinos	26.1%	43.2%
Read books/magazines/newspapers	18.4%	31.0%
Helped your parents with the household chores	18.3%	30.1%
Helped your parents in agriculture/business	20.5%	36.6%

Most of the respondents had spent their holidays as well as school breaks at home: on average twenty days (compared to thirty days in 2008). On average, the respondents spent three days at the seaside (compared to four days in 2008) and three days in the countryside visiting relatives or friends (the same as in 2008). They spent an average of four days abroad and one day in the mountains (compared to one day for both of the above in 2008). Male respondents spent significantly more time in the mountains and abroad in relation to the female respondents, whereas female respondents spent more days in the countryside in relation to their male counterparts. Respondents from the general population spent significantly more days at the seaside (4 days on average) in relation to those respondents who were members of vulnerable groups (2 days on average). When you consider that vulnerable groups have less money at their disposal these results are not surprising.

A little less than two-thirds of respondents stated that they possessed a passport, which is significantly more than in 2008 (61.1% in 2011/2012 compared to 57.4% in 2008). Most respondents (95.6%, compared to 93.0% in 2008) had travelled to one of the cities in BiH, whereas around two-thirds (65.4%, compared to 63.7% in 2008) had travelled to another country. Respondents from the general population had travelled to cities within BiH significantly more often (96.1%) than those from vulnerable groups (92.6%) and this also applied to travel abroad (67.3% compared to 54.3% from vulnerable groups). Most of the respondents who had travelled abroad did so as tourists (53.5%, compared to 47.0% in 2008), whereas a little less than a third travelled to visit relatives or friends (30.6%). When it came to working abroad 5.7% of respondents (compared to 4.7% in 2008) had done so, while 1.9% travelled for educational purposes (compared to 5.1% in 2008) and 6.2% stated another reason for travelling abroad (compared to 4.5% in 2008). Male respondents travelled to another country for work or on business significantly more often, while significantly more female respondents travelled abroad as tourists.

For additional information on the reasons for respondents travelling abroad see Graph 13.

Graph 13: What was the main reason of your travel? (Data comparison from 2008 and 2011/2012)

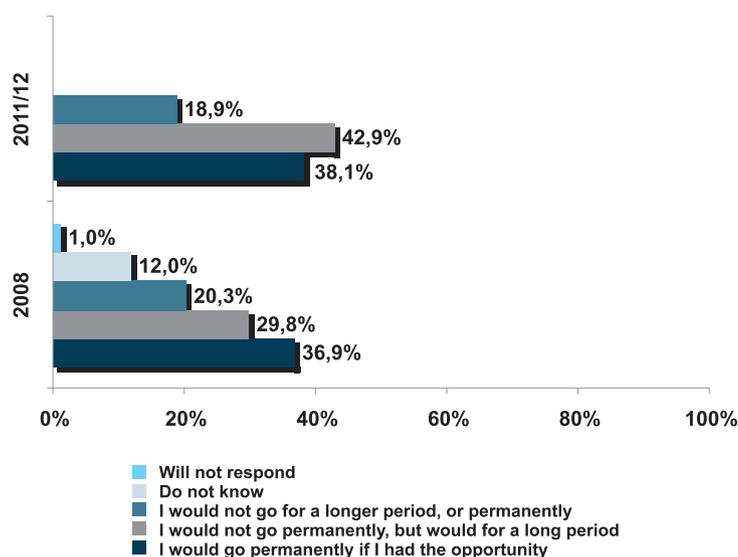


Most respondents stated that they had not lived abroad for more than three months (86.9%, compared to 88.6% in 2008), whereas 13.1% had lived in another country for a longer period than that stated above (compared to 11.0% in 2008). On average, those respondents who had lived abroad for more than three months spent 30 months abroad (in 2008 the average period was 57 months). Respondents who belong to vulnerable groups stated more often that they had lived abroad for longer than three months (20.4%), compared to respondents from the general population (12.1%). Male respondents had lived abroad for a period longer than three months more often than female respondents.

Over half of the respondents (53.3%) stated that if they had the opportunity they would ‘definitely’ (possible answers: ‘Quite definitely’ and ‘Definitely’) leave BiH to study (compared to 46.0% in 2008). However, the practice of studying abroad is still not widespread in BiH: most respondents stated that they had gained their education or were studying within BiH. It would seem that some elements are necessary to encourage young people to take this step; however, this would require special attention to the financial aspects, because financial reasons were most commonly stated as the reason for not completing the aforementioned education.

Graph 14 shows the wishes of respondents regarding travelling abroad. In terms of leaving the country for temporary work 65.6% (compared to 55.1% in 2008) of respondents stated that they would, whereas 52.3% (compared to 46.0% in 2008) stated that they would leave the country in order to reside in another country and 42.0% (compared to 34.1% in 2008) stated that they would do so for marriage. A little more than one-third of respondents (38.1%, compared to 36.9% in 2008) stated that they would go abroad for an extended period of time or permanently. 42.9% (compared to 29.8% in 2008) would go abroad for a longer period, but not forever. What is worrying is that only less than one-fifth of the respondents (18.9%, compared to 20.3% in 2008) stated that they would not leave BiH for a longer period of time or permanently; this suggests that most young people do in fact want to leave this country. Respondents who belong to vulnerable groups stated much more often that they would not leave BiH for a longer period of time or permanently (52.3%), compared to respondents from the general population (36.6%). Male respondents stated that they were significantly more willing, compared to female respondents, to ‘definitely’ leave BiH for temporary work, marriage or for permanent residence in a foreign country. Female respondents significantly more often stated that they were not sure or that they would probably not leave BiH for the aforementioned reasons.

Graph 14: Would you like to go abroad for a long period or permanently? (Data comparison from 2008 and 2011/2012)



Most respondents (71.6%) believed that the visa free regime largely or at least to some extent facilitates the stay and work of BiH citizens in European countries, whereas the respondents from vulnerable groups stated significantly more often that the visa free regime does not facilitate the aforementioned (7.7%), in comparison to respondents of the general population of youth (3.5%).

In regard to travel and the liberalisation of the visa regime, it is important to analyse the familiarity of young people with and their attitudes towards human trafficking. The respondents were asked a few questions in order to estimate their level of awareness on human trafficking. Most respondents had heard of this term (94.0%), while 16.4% of those respondents knew of concrete examples of human trafficking. Almost two-thirds of the respondents (64.5%) who had heard about human trafficking stated that they were to a large or at least some extent informed about human trafficking as well as about the ways in which they could protect themselves against it. Respondents that belonged to vulnerable groups stated significantly less often that they were familiar with the term human trafficking (84.7%), compared to young people from the general population (95.7%). These respondents also stated significantly more often that they have been given scarce information about ways to protect themselves (38.3%, compared to 27.0% from the general population). According to these findings, it can be concluded that many young people, especially those from vulnerable groups, are at risk of human trafficking and that mechanisms should be found to increase their level of awareness on methods of self-protection.

2.7 ATTITUDES CONCERNING THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE

As part of the research, the respondents were required to give their opinion of the problems facing the youth in BiH as well as their views on the future in this country.

Most respondents stated that the things that gave them the most satisfaction were the possibility for fun and entertainment (71.6%), the possibility for free expression (66.4%) and to enrol in secondary school (65.0%). In 2008 respondents mentioned similar things, but in slightly lower percentages: 62.3% mentioned enrolling in secondary school, 61.0% enrolling in university and 58.0% the possibility for fun and entertainment. In 2011/12 the respondents stated significantly more often, when compared to 2008, that they gained satisfaction from all of the opportunities set forth in the questionnaire, the only exception to this rule was enrolment in an education programme.

The possibility to do what they want to do and the freedom to express themselves were equally important

to the young people from the general population and those who came from vulnerable groups. School related issues (enrolment in an education programme, manner of schooling), possibilities of career advancement and the possibility for political action as well as the possibility for fun and entertainment brought satisfaction to young people from the general population significantly more often than to those from vulnerable groups. Those respondents who belonged to vulnerable groups mostly responded to the aforementioned areas by stating that for them they neither created satisfaction nor dissatisfaction.

For additional information about what satisfies young people in BiH see Table 9.

Table 9: What, in your opinion, makes young people today satisfied or dissatisfied? (Data comparison between 2008 and 2011/12)

Reasons for satisfaction or dissatisfaction	Research wave in 2008				Research wave in 2011/2012			
	Brings satisfaction	Brings dissatisfaction	Brings neither satisfaction nor dissatisfaction	I do not know	Brings satisfaction	Brings dissatisfaction	Brings neither satisfaction nor dissatisfaction	I do not know
Enrolment in secondary school	62.3%	15.0%	15.3%	7.5%	65.0%	15.1%	19.3%	0.6%
Enrolment in university and or post-secondary education	61.0%	15.4%	13.4%	10.2%	61.5%	17.7%	20.4%	0.4%
Enrolment in postgraduate study	56.9%	12.9%	12.9%	17.3%	56.0%	16.9%	26.4%	0.7%
Manner of schooling	37.9%	31.9%	18.7%	11.6%	56.7%	20.8%	22.1%	0.5%
Employment possibilities	32.8%	54.5%	6.4%	6.3%	55.3%	35.3%	8.8%	0.6%
Possibilities for resolving the housing situation	34.3%	50.4%	7.0%	8.3%	55.9%	29.5%	13.9%	0.6%
Possibilities for economic emancipation	35.2%	50.7%	6.5%	7.6%	57.0%	31.5%	11.0%	0.6%
Possibilities for the youth to do what they want	43.1%	44.0%	7.6%	5.3%	65.3%	22.7%	11.4%	0.6%
Advancement possibilities in employment and chosen occupation	44.4%	40.0%	8.4%	7.2%	62.3%	24.7%	12.2%	0.7%
Possibilities for political engagement	26.9%	31.6%	24.6%	16.9%	43.8%	25.8%	29.8%	0.6%
Possibilities for fun and entertainment	58.0%	26.3%	9.7%	6.0%	71.6%	14.8%	12.9%	0.6%
Possibility to freely express opinions	53.5%	23.4%	14.3%	8.8%	66.4%	15.9%	17.2%	0.6%

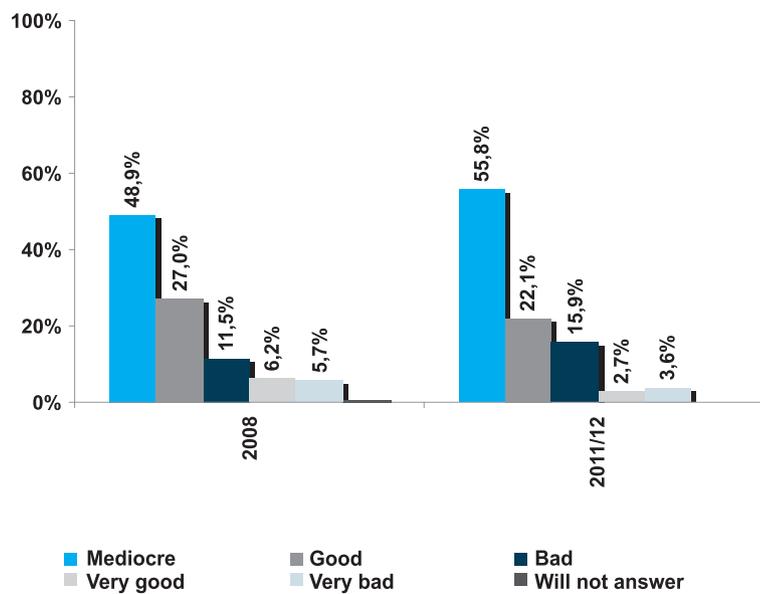
Attitudes on what are the most important problems facing the youth in BiH have not changed in relation to 2008. Youth unemployment is still considered to be the largest problem (73.7%, compared to 70.1% in 2008), followed by material-economic dependency (24.3, compared to 42.9% in 2008) and alcoholism, drug abuse, delinquency and similar problems (23.3%, compared to 18.2% in 2008). While, from the statistical aspect, in 2008 significantly more respondents cited problems of material-economic dependency, problems related to school and the educational system and housing problems, in 2011/12 other problems were more statistically significantly. Respondents from vulnerable groups cited the

problem of existing social differences much more often (12.8%) in comparison with the general population (6.2%).

Gender differences were also determined in regard to this question, although both male and female respondents most commonly cited unemployment as the major problem for young people. Male respondents complained significantly more (6.6%) compared to female respondents (3.4%) about the subordinate position of youth, whereas female respondents cited moral crisis and a lack of ideals significantly more often (8.0%) than male respondents (5.7%).

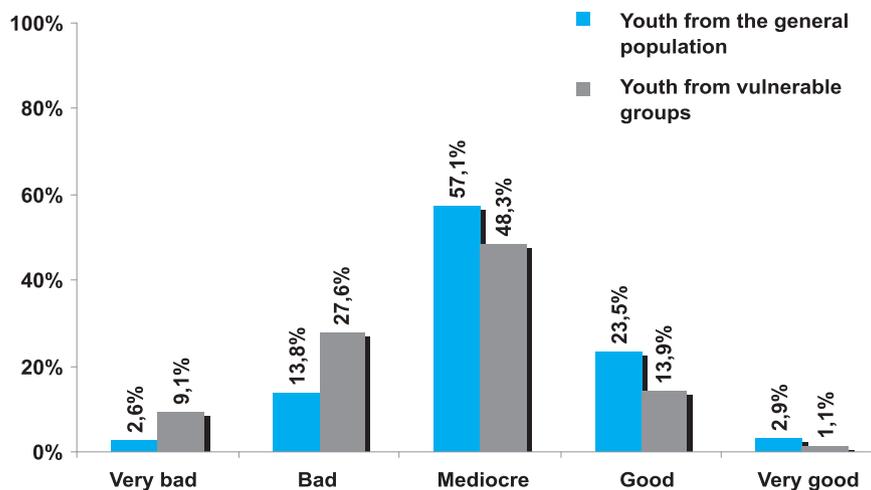
As in 2008, in 2011/12 respondents evaluated their living standard most frequently as 'mediocre' (55.8% in 2011/12 compared to 48.9% in 2008). Approximately one-third of respondents in 2008, compared to a quarter in 2011/12, evaluated their living standard as 'good' or 'very good' (24.8% in 2011/12 compared to 33.2% in 2008). In 2011/12 respondents evaluated their living standard significantly more often as 'bad' or 'mediocre' than was the case in 2008 (see Graph 15).

Graph 15: When all factors are considered, how would you evaluate your current living standard? (Data comparison between 2008 and 2011/12)

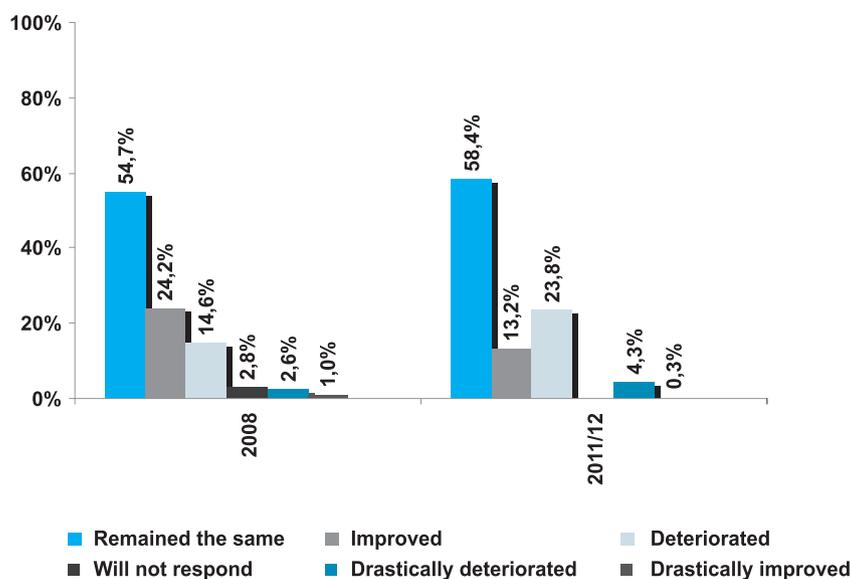


Whereas young people who belonged to the general population significantly more often evaluated their living standard as 'good' or 'mediocre', young persons from vulnerable groups described their living standard significantly more often as 'bad' or 'very bad' (see Graph 16).

Graph 16: When all factors are considered, how would you evaluate your current living standard? (Comparison of answers of young people from the general population and those from vulnerable groups)



Graph 17: In the past three years your living standard has...? (Data comparison between 2008 and 2011/12)



As in 2008, in 2011/12 respondents most often stated that they believed that their standard had remained the same over the past three years (58.4% in 2011/12 compared to 54.7% in 2008). In 2011/12 respondents significantly more often stated that their living standard had deteriorated or that it had remained the same, whereas in 2008 the respondents reported significantly more often that their living standard had improved (see Chart 17). While respondents from the general population stated significantly more often that their living standard had improved over the past three years (14.3%, compared to 7.1% of respondents from vulnerable groups) respondents from vulnerable groups stated significantly more often that their living standard had drastically deteriorated (7.1%, compared to 3.8% of the general population).

Most respondents estimated that their situation had not changed over the last few years in regard to

nutrition (68.7%, compared to 56.0% in 2008), clothing (66.8%, compared to 57.0% in 2008), resolving their housing situation (66.5% in 2011/12 compared to 58.6% in 2008), schooling (68.7% in 2011/12 compared to 58.7% in 2008), health protection (73.3% in 2011/12 compared to 62.7% in 2008), leisure/entertainments/going out (64.7%, compared to 54.9% in 2008) and travel (61.6%, compared to 54.7% in 2008). In employment terms 46.9% of respondents (compared to 50.8% in 2008) believed that the situation was the same as before, whereas 46.1% (compared to 32.3% in 2008) believed that the situation had become worse than before. In addition, more than a quarter of respondents believed that a deterioration had occurred in the field of resolving housing issues (27.6%, compared to 22.3% in 2008) and travel (25.8%, compared to 19.4% in 2008). Respondents that belonged to vulnerable groups stated significantly more often than the general population that their standard had deteriorated in regard to income (32.4%, compared to 24.1% in the general population), work status (31.3%, compared to 23.9% in the general population), health protection (23.6%, compared to 17.2% in the general population) and the overall quality of life (31.0%, compared to 23.8% in the general population).

In regard to the future, respondents were pessimistic and most commonly believed that their living standard would not change over the next three years; this applied to the issues of income, work status, education, health protection, housing and the overall quality of life. The attitude that their standard would not change was expressed significantly more often by those respondents who belonged to vulnerable groups (36.6%), in relation to the general population (28.1%). In 2011/12 respondents stated significantly more often that they believed the situation would become worse or remain the same, whereas in 2008 they had a more optimistic attitude towards the future. Looking at the future in general terms, slightly over half of the respondents (55.1%, compared to 66.9% in 2008) believed that their future would be better than their present and a little less than one-third (29.4%, compared to 18.5% in 2008) did not expect any change in the future, while 13.6% of respondents believed that their future would be worse than their present (compared to 7.3% in 2008).

Men were significantly more pessimistic than women in their attitudes related to changes in the future and in regard to the issues of education and housing. Significantly more male respondents, compared to female, believed that the standard would deteriorate over the next three years in regard to education: 4.0% male and 2.4% female respondents, while 4.3% male and 2.7% female respondents thought the same in regard to the housing situation.

The general impression is that the respondents most often evaluated their own living standard as 'mediocre' and were pessimistic in their expectation that their status would improve in the near future.

2.8 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VULNERABLE GROUPS

Vulnerable groups in BiH are at risk in many areas of life and activity. The differences between vulnerable groups and the general population have been emphasised and are visible, which raises concern in many areas of this report. However, all vulnerable categories do not have the same status in society in BiH; therefore, it is also necessary to perceive and emphasise the differences that exist between the different vulnerable categories themselves, which can also point to certain social phenomena and issues.

The Roma are, according to the main demographic characteristics, to a large extent different from other vulnerable groups. Marriage is significantly more common amongst Roma youth in relation to other vulnerable groups (55.0%, compared to 15.2% of youth without parental care, 12.0% of youth with special needs and 26.7% of youth returnees) and they also have more children (57.5%, compared to 13.6% of youth without parental care, 6.0% of youth with special needs and 17.8% of youth returnees). Roma youth also tend less often to speak a foreign language in relation to other vulnerable groups: 63.6% of Roma youth did not speak a foreign language, compared to 12.5% of youth without parental care, 37.0% of youth with special needs and 4.6% of youth returnees. Young people with special needs also spoke a foreign language significantly less often than youth without parental care and youth returnees. These differences could be related to cultural specificities, for example, in regard to Roma youth, and fewer opportunities for education for these vulnerable groups.

The Roma youth and youth returnees reported similarly about the deterioration of their own living

standards over the past period, yet their expectations for the future differed in regard to the living standards. Firstly, young Roma evaluated their living standard as 'bad' significantly more often than all other vulnerable groups (42.4%, compared to 23.9% of youth without parental care, 20.0% of youth with special needs and 21.5% of youth returnees). In addition, they more frequently held the opinion that their standard had deteriorated over the past period (38.4%), in relation to youth without parental care (15.9%) and youth with special needs (21.0%). Similar to the Roma, youth returnees (36.9%) perceived that their living standard had deteriorated significantly more often in relation to youth without parental care. However, youth returnees much more frequently, in relation to Roma and youth with special needs, stated that the situation would improve over the next three years in regard to income, work status, education and the overall quality of life, while they were also significantly more optimistic, compared to the Roma youth, in regard to health protection. Despite deteriorations over the past period, the Roma youth were pessimistic in terms of the future when it came to their living standard, whereas youth returnees gave a relatively optimistic estimation.

All of the young people from vulnerable groups considered unemployment to be the major problem for youth in BiH; however, there were differences of opinion concerning the presence and influence of certain other problems. It seems that the Roma youth considered the housing issue and the existence of social differences within society in BiH to represent the major problems. Firstly, housing issues are significantly more common amongst the Roma (24.2%) in relation to youth without parental care (4.5%) and youth with special needs (5.0%). In addition, the Roma complained significantly more frequently (24.2%) in relation to youth with special needs (7.0%) and youth returnees (7.7%) about the problem of social inequality. On the other hand, youth with special needs seem burdened by a crisis of morality and the insufficient care given by society for young people. These respondents emphasised a crisis in morality as being a major problem (16.0%) and the insufficient level of care given by society for youth problems (28.0%) significantly more often in relation to Roma youth (1.0% and 11.1% of Roma youth respectively). The Roma stated more frequently (50.5%), in relation to youth returnees (23.1%), that they were completely unsatisfied with the level of housing care provided for young people. Youth with special needs expressed the same attitude significantly more frequently (54.0%), in relation to youth returnees and persons without parental care (31.8%).

When it came to education it seems that the Roma were the most vulnerable category. It was significantly more common for Roma not to have completed their primary school education, in relation to youth with special needs and youth returnees (34.2%, compared to 8.9% of youth with special needs, whereas all young persons without parental care and all youth returnees had at least completed primary education), or they had only completed four grades of primary school (20.5%, as opposed to 2.5% of youth with special needs). Other vulnerable groups had completed four years of primary education significantly more often than the Roma youth. In addition, enrolment in different educational programmes gave Roma less satisfaction in relation to youth without parental care. Furthermore, the Roma stated financial reasons for not completing their education significantly more often than youth with special needs and youth returnees (55.3%, compared to 0.0% of youth without parental care, 8.3% of youth with special needs and 9.1% of youth returnees). Roma youth were also significantly more likely to need to repeat a grade compared to youth returnees and youth without parental care.

It appears that the Roma youth see the education system differently (or, in fact, it is truly different for them!) in relation to the other vulnerable groups. Namely, Roma youth chose the answer 'Definitely not' for a series of true/false questions about the characteristics of the school system significantly more frequently than the respondents from other vulnerable groups and in such a way Roma youth emphasised that they are not interested in most school subjects, that most teachers do not understand them or take an interest in them and that most teachers do not approach pupils in an appropriate manner. When answering the same questions, youth without parental care chose the answer 'To a large extent' significantly more often than the other vulnerable groups, thus they evaluated the education system as being of good quality within this context. Youth with special needs and youth returnees stated significantly more often than Roma respondents that their results were very ('Absolutely') important to their parents and that they had their parents' support.

Graph 18: To what extent can you say that the following statements are true in relation to your education? (Data comparison between vulnerable groups)

		Group			
		Roma	Youth without parental care	Young persons with special needs	Returns
Teaching requirements are too much of a burden for me	Definitely not	28.3%	21.6%	20.0%	27.7%
	To a lesser extent	43.4%	48.9%	43.0%	43.1%
	To a large extent	25.3%	23.9%	21.0%	23.1%
	Fully	3.0%	3.4%	16.0%	6.2%
There are many subjects I am interested in	Definitely not	37.4%	4.5%	17.0%	7.7%
	To a lesser extent	30.3%	28.4%	30.0%	35.4%
	To a large extent	26.3%	52.3%	31.0%	44.6%
	Fully	6.1%	13.6%	22.0%	12.3%
Most teachers take me seriously and are interested in my work	Definitely not	35.4%	5.7%	12.0%	3.1%
	To a lesser extent	36.4%	27.3%	36.0%	40.0%
	To a large extent	21.2%	56.8%	33.0%	36.9%
	Fully	7.1%	9.1%	19.0%	20.0%
Most teachers approach their students in an appropriate way	Definitely not	30.3%	2.3%	8.0%	3.1%
	To a lesser extent	33.3%	26.1%	38.0%	26.2%
	To a large extent	29.3%	62.5%	36.0%	55.4%
	Fully	7.1%	9.1%	18.0%	15.4%
My results in school are very important to my parents	Definitely not	30.3%	47.7%	9.0%	0.0%
	To a lesser extent	23.2%	17.0%	13.0%	12.3%
	To a large extent	29.3%	19.3%	33.0%	47.7%
	Fully	17.2%	12.5%	45.0%	40.0%
I get full support from my parents when I face problems in education	Definitely not	26.3%	46.6%	8.0%	1.5%
	To a lesser extent	26.3%	17.0%	13.0%	4.6%
	To a large extent	34.3%	21.6%	25.0%	43.1%
	Fully	13.1%	11.4%	54.0%	50.8%

The problems related to education of the Roma have existed in BiH for a long time, while action directed at resolving and reducing the differences between Roma and other members of society in BiH in terms of education have also been present for a long time. Yet these differences have obviously not been removed and continue to exist to the detriment of the Roma population.

Interesting differences were also observed between vulnerable groups concerning their attitudes on changes in the education system. On the one hand, within the context of education, Roma youth (34.3%) and youth returnees (38.5%) stated significantly more often, when compared to youth without parental care (15.9%), that it is necessary to change the curricula due to their redundancy. On the other hand, youth without parental care (35.2%) stated significantly more often, when compared to Roma youth (10.1%) and youth returnees (15.4%), that there was a lack of practical work. In addition, youth with special needs emphasised far more often the problem of a lack of technical preparedness (12.0%) compared to the Roma youth (2.0%).

Significantly less Roma had heard of lifelong learning compared to the other vulnerable groups (17.2%, compared to 54.5% of youth without parental care, 42.0% of youth with special needs and 47.7% of youth returnees). It also appears that youth returnees (64.6%) and youth without parental care (53.4%) are significantly more prepared to change careers than Roma youth (39.4%) and youth with special needs (33.0%).

Significant differences were also determined between vulnerable groups in regard to their employment status. It seems that youth with special needs and Roma youth are the most vulnerable categories in regard to employment: significantly less youth with special needs and Roma respondents were employed in comparison to youth without parental care. Furthermore, significantly less unemployed respondents with special needs sought employment in relation to the other vulnerable groups and had been unemployed for significantly longer when compared to unemployed Roma and returnee respondents.

Graph 19: Which of the following categories best describes your situation during the past week? (Data comparison between vulnerable groups)

	Group			
	Roma	Youth without parental care	Young people with special needs	Youth returnees
Full time employment: 35+ hours per week	6.1%	21.6%	5.0%	13.8%
Part time employment: between 15 and 34 hours per week	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Half time employment: less than 15 hours per week	0.0%	1.1%	1.0%	0.0%
Work on a personal estate in agriculture and NOT LOOKING for another job	1.0%	1.1%	1.0%	1.5%
Work on a personal estate in agriculture and LOOKING for another job	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Intern/Trial worker (practice)	0.0%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Traineeship/apprenticeship	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Specialisation	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Unemployed, with a temporary job, actively seeking employment	5.1%	4.5%	4.0%	0.0%
Unemployed and actively seeking employment	25.3%	14.8%	3.0%	24.6%
Unemployed and wants employment, but not actively looking	22.2%	8.0%	14.0%	6.2%
Unemployed but not seeking employment at all	18.2%	0.0%	7.0%	4.6%
Person with disability	0.0%	0.0%	42.0%	0.0%
Housewife	10.1%	2.3%	2.0%	3.1%
School pupil	11.1%	29.5%	11.0%	30.8%
Maternity leave	0.0%	1.1%	1.0%	0.0%
University student	1.0%	14.8%	6.0%	15.4%
Health leave	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Military	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Other	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Will not answer	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

In relation to some of the other vulnerable categories and judging from the results of the survey it appears that Roma youth are more frequently unemployed, but it also seems that they are less active in seeking employment. In relation to youth without parental care and youth returnees, the Roma respondents stated significantly more often that they wanted to be employed but were not actively seeking employment. In relation to youth returnees, Roma respondents also stated more often that they were not seeking employment at all. On average, Roma respondents stated that they would work for a significantly lower wage (448 BAM) than youth without parental care respondents (671 BAM).

Youth without parental care respondents who were employed stated significantly more often, in relation to youth with special needs, that they were employed on the basis of an open-ended contract. They were also far more informed about the existence of governmental employment programmes, in comparison to youth returnees, which puts them in a slightly better position in relation to the other vulnerable groups. Significantly more youth returnees reported work experience (7 months) in relation to Roma respondents (none of which reported any work experience) and youth with special needs (1 month).

Compared to the Roma respondents, youth with special needs respondents far more often expressed complete disagreement with the idea that discrimination against women is present in the labour market.

Youth without parental care respondents agreed with the aforementioned attitude significantly more often than youth returnees.

Compared to the other vulnerable groups, it was far less common for youth returnee respondents to be familiar with cases of ‘buying employment’: 20.0%, compared to 48.5% of Roma youth, 56.8% of youth without parental care and 41.0% of youth with special needs. When it came to the subject of bribery within public and private institutions and companies, significantly more Roma respondents stated that it is present in most cases, compared to youth with special needs. However, in comparison to the Roma, significantly more youth with special needs respondents believed that such practices either do not exist or do exist but very infrequently.

Youth with special needs respondents were more frequently beneficiaries of social services compared to respondents from the other vulnerable categories. In comparison to youth returnees, significantly more youth with special needs and Roma respondents were clients of the centres for social work during the 6 month period prior to this survey. Significantly more youth with special needs respondents visited the centres for social work than youth without parental care respondents. Youth with special needs respondents also received social assistance significantly more often than other vulnerable groups (66.0%, compared to 20.2% of Roma youth, 39.8% of youth without parental care and 1.5% of youth returnees). Within this context, significantly less youth returnees received social assistance when compared to the other vulnerable groups.

In terms of their economic status, it seems that youth without parental care and youth with special needs respondents are in a slightly better situation in relation to the other vulnerable groups. Youth without parental care (37.5%) and youth with special needs (37.0%) contributed to their household budget significantly more often than the Roma (17.2%) and returnee (10.8%) respondents. Youth without parental care respondents had a significantly larger amount of money at their disposal (240 BAM) during the previous three months when compared to the Roma (126 BAM) as well as persons with special needs (154 BAM) respondents.

Roma respondents stated significantly more often (27.3%), in relation to youth without parental care (10.2%) and youth returnees (7.7%), that they contributed infrequently to their household budget. In comparison to respondents from all of the other vulnerable groups, significantly less youth returnee respondents stated that they contributed to their household budget.

Concerning sources of income, youth with special needs respondents referred to social assistance as their source of income significantly more often (64.0%) than respondents from the other vulnerable groups: 24.2% of Roma, 30.7% of youth without parental care and 1.5% of returnees. On the other hand, youth returnees referred to agricultural goods as one of their primary sources of income significantly more frequently (40.0%) than respondents from the other vulnerable groups: 13.1% of Roma youth, 9.1% of youth without parental care and 8.0% of youth with special needs.

Significant differences were found amongst the vulnerable categories in regard to their perception of the level of influence they held within the group to which they belonged. Roma respondents stated significantly more often than those from the other vulnerable groups that they had no influence at their work, in school or in higher education. When compared to youth without parental care (48.0%) and youth with special needs (47.9%), significantly more Roma respondents (73.0%) stated that they had not voted in past elections. Compared to youth returnees, significantly more Roma respondents believed that they had no influence whatsoever on the decisions that are made at the local level. The Roma respondents held a negative opinion about the work and projects of youth organisations operating in their municipality of residence or city much more frequently than those respondents from the other vulnerable groups. It appears that the Roma respondents perceived that they had very little influence within the groups to which they belonged.

In regard to influence within the family, youth without parental care stated that they had a large degree of influence in their own household much more frequently than the Roma youth and youth with special needs. Yet when it came to youth with special needs significantly more respondents stated that they had no influence within their family or household, compared to youth returnees. In addition, significantly more youth with special needs respondents believed that young people have no influence at all over decisions that are made at the local level, compared to youth without parental care and youth returnee respondents. Youth with special needs respondents also perceived that they had no influence over their circle of friends and peers.

Graph 20: Try to evaluate your own level of influence over important decisions and what happens in the environment in which you live and work. How do you evaluate your influence over the decisions that are made? (Data comparison amongst vulnerable groups)

		GROUP			
		Roma	Youth without parental care	Youth with special needs	Youth returnees
At work, at school or at university	None	64.6%	15.9%	45.0%	23.1%
	Small	28.3%	27.3%	26.0%	30.8%
	Medium	6.1%	42.0%	22.0%	36.9%
	Big	1.0%	13.6%	7.0%	9.2%
In your family or household	None	13.1%	13.6%	26.0%	9.2%
	Small	25.3%	15.9%	14.0%	13.8%
	Medium	45.5%	34.1%	44.0%	50.8%
	Big	16.2%	35.2%	16.0%	26.2%
In the local community where you reside	None	57.6%	53.4%	64.0%	66.2%
	Small	33.3%	27.3%	21.0%	20.0%
	Medium	9.1%	18.2%	12.0%	13.8%
	Big	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%
In political or non-governmental organisations	None	82.8%	70.5%	76.0%	80.0%
	Small	15.2%	20.5%	13.0%	15.4%
	Medium	1.0%	8.0%	9.0%	3.1%
	Big	1.0%	0.0%	2.0%	0.0%
Within your circle of friends and peers	None	20.2%	8.0%	29.0%	9.2%
	Small	25.3%	15.9%	24.0%	15.4%
	Medium	50.5%	54.5%	37.0%	58.5%
	Big	4.0%	20.5%	10.0%	16.9%

Roma respondents stated significantly more often than other vulnerable groups that they would leave BiH for temporary employment, marriage or to permanently reside in another country. Youth without parental care were significantly more prepared to leave BiH for study or temporary employment, in comparison with youth with special needs. It seems that youth with special needs have the least tendency to leave BiH; significantly more of these respondents stated that they would not leave BiH for the aforementioned reasons, compared to youth without parental care. Youth returnee respondents stated significantly more often than youth with special needs respondents that they would certainly (although not absolutely) leave BiH for study, marriage or permanent residence in a foreign country.

In regard to human trafficking, youth without parental care respondents were significantly more familiar with the term 'human trafficking' (96.6%) than the other vulnerable groups (81.8% of Roma, 79.0% of youth with special needs and 81.5% of youth returnees). Roma and returnee respondents stated significantly more frequently than youth with special needs respondents that they had heard of concrete cases of human trafficking.

In comparison with the other vulnerable groups, Roma respondents spend significantly less of their leisure time at the seaside: on average, respondents of Roma ethnic origin spent less than one day at the seaside compared with the average three days spent at the seaside by youth without parental care and youth returnee respondents and the two days spent by youth with special needs. Youth without parental care spent significantly more days in the countryside (5 days) in relation to the Roma (2 days) respondents. The Roma respondents also stated that they spent significantly less time reading books, surfing the Internet or on facebook and other virtual networks than the other vulnerable groups. Youth with special needs respondents reported having visited cafes and discos or clubs, read books, surfed the Internet on facebook or other virtual networks, taken walks or engaged in other forms of recreation, socialised with their friends and visited beauty salons significantly less frequently in relation to youth without parental care.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations set forth in this report are based on the results of the conducted survey and were derived based on the expressed desires and needs of the youth, as established through this research. It is hoped that benefit will be drawn from these recommendations by different governmental institutions, civil society organisations, public and private institutions and companies, educational and social institutions and all others that deal with the problems and issues of the youth as well as social issues in general.

Resolution of the unemployment and housing issues pertaining to young people. Government in BiH has many reasons to be concerned in regard to the country's birth rate. According to data from the Agency for Statistics of BiH², the natural population growth rate of BiH decreased during the period from 1997 to 2009. Most legally adult young persons in BiH are not married (72.2%), while only 21.4% of them have children: on average, one or two. Therefore, government should implement appropriate measures in order to encourage young people to form families of their own and have children. Most young people in BiH consider unemployment to be the main problem with which they are faced. Statistical data³ shows that unemployment is a growing issue, namely unemployment increased over the period from 2009 to 2011. In addition, most of the youth do not own their own living space (69.2%), while government attempts to address the issue of youth housing are rated by young people at an average of grade 3 on a scale where 1 represents the lowest (negative) grade. It seems that unemployment and housing of are the main issues for the youth and they expect government to address them through the direct aim of improving the economic situation of young people (and society) and through the indirect long-term aim of increasing the natural population growth rate in BiH.

To enable everyone to realise their right to primary education. Of the surveyed sample in BiH, 3.3% of young people stated that they had not even completed primary school education, most often Roma respondents. The fact that this social problem has not yet been eradicated is devastating and so is the fact that vulnerable groups are less educated in comparison with the general population of youth in BiH. The governments in BiH must undertake urgent measures to enable all young people to realise their right to education as it is one of the fundamental human rights. Social institutions (centres for social work) could also participate in the realisation of this right as well as education institutions and different non-governmental organisations.

To remove all obstacles to good quality education. It is necessary to remove the financial barriers that were cited by almost a quarter (23.6%) of the respondents and attributed to the failure to complete the education process, whether it is primary, secondary or higher education. This issue can be influenced by both the governmental and the non-governmental sectors through scholarship programmes for pupils and university students, student loans and other mechanisms. Apart from the aforementioned it is also important to consider the voice of the youth, many of whom claim that the education curricula are too demanding and too comprehensive for them; they also testify to the insufficiently professional demeanour of the teaching staff and to a lack of support from parents where their education is concerned. According to the opinion of the youth, one of the problems within education is the insufficient level of practical education. It seems that within this context systematic change is required as well as an in-depth and well planned approach. In addition, educational efforts focused on teachers and parents as well as young people are required in order to maximise the opportunities for young people to gain the education they deserve.

To enable young people to gain experience of international education. Many of the young people who participated in the survey expressed an interest in gaining their education abroad: 53.3% stated that they would leave BiH to study, but most were educated in BiH (97.6%). Students and secondary school pupils need to be provided with more information about existing possibilities as well as to be presented with new opportunities to gain their education abroad. Education and governmental institutions (for

² <http://www.bhas.ba/tematskibilteni/DEM_2009_002_01-bh.pdf>, accessed Feb 17, 2012.

³ <http://www.bhas.ba/saopstenja/2012/NEZ_2011M11_001_01_BH.pdf>, accessed Feb 17, 2012.

example, the ministries of education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of BiH) as well as non-governmental organisations can participate in this process. However, it is important to take into account the fact that young people have to be motivated to return to BiH after completing their education in order to use their expertise to support the development of their own country.

To inform young people about the possibilities for engagement in voluntary activities. According to the finding of the research, most young people have not participated in voluntary activities in the past period; the most common reasons for their non-participation were that nobody offered them the chance and a lack of information. Primarily, there is a need to identify the different organisations and institutions that need volunteers and create a database containing this information. Furthermore, young people need to be informed about the opportunities to volunteer and, apart from the obvious social benefits of volunteer work, the subsequent benefits volunteerism offers to young people in terms of learning, growing and gaining new experiences. The media can also play an important role in this process, considering that television and the Internet are the most dominant means of obtaining information for young people. It also seems that recognition and legal protection in volunteer work are also very important to young people and this should be taken into consideration when dealing with the issue of youth volunteerism.

To increase access to non-formal education programmes. Most of the respondent young people (75.1%) stated that they did not attend any educational programmes other than formal ones. When one considers the increasingly demanding nature of the labour market for an ever expanding set of professional skills and the increasing need for lifelong learning and education, non-formal education programmes should play an important role in this process in the future. Therefore, young people should be provided with more information about existing opportunities as well as with more opportunities and possibilities to access non-formal education programmes.

To encourage youth participation in decision-making, support their entrepreneurial spirit and raise youth assertiveness. According to the research results, young people are rarely found amongst directors, managers and entrepreneurs (8.3%). Employment of youth in these positions and their entrepreneurial spirit should be supported, especially for young persons of the female gender. Considering the economic situation in BiH it is necessary to find new and different solutions to address the existing problems and these could be provided by a new motivated and fresh workforce. The existing managers and CEOs could have a supervisory function in this process. The youth should receive additional education in order for them to impose themselves on positions with more responsibility, to 'sell' their knowledge and skills with more assertiveness and they should be encouraged to undertake entrepreneurial ventures. Yet before this, the problem of their inactivity in seeking employment should be resolved and they should be encouraged to submit applications and become more active in this area in general. Different opinions concerning the presence of bribery and corruption within employment may be one of the reasons for youth inactivity in this regard. In addition to the young persons, employers should also be appropriately informed about the benefits of trusting young employees with more responsibility as well as the general benefits related to employing young people.

To protect vulnerable groups. The research results demonstrate that vulnerable groups of youth in BiH are threatened in different ways, starting from education to the jobs that they do and the income that they realise. Generally speaking, these groups have to be enabled if they are to realise their rights that are endangered and be provided with equal opportunities for education as well as with equal rights within the labour market.

To protect the rights of workers. Although it seems that the number of young people working without an employment contract is decreasing (13.0% in 2011/12 compared to 18.7% in 2008) it is still necessary to invest additional effort in order to protect the rights of all workers. It also seems that workers' rights are insufficiently protected in regard to receiving salaries and salary contributions. In this process special attention should be paid to vulnerable groups. Furthermore, in order to further protect the rights of workers more action aimed at detecting and sanctioning cases of purchasing employment and bribery in order to gain employment are necessary as are activities focused on removing discrimination within employment.

To improve the quality of social protection. Only a few respondents (6.5%) visited centres for social work in the period prior to the survey and only around one-third of young persons who visited these

centres (32.0%) stated that they received the information they needed. This suggests a low level of efficiency in the centres for social work in relation to youth issues. In any event, there is a need for additional research into the problems these centres face and which affect their efficiency. It is also necessary to recommend and implement appropriate measures for their improvement. Supervision and ensuring consistent implementation of the legal framework in relation to social protection should also be taken into account.

Raising youth awareness about the advantages of political activity and activity within the non-governmental sector. Young people in BiH, especially those of the female gender, are relatively uninterested in politics (16.8%) and they do not believe that they have a lot of influence over the decisions beyond the circle of their own family and friends. Therefore, the finding that a large percentage of young people do not vote and that they do not even attempt to influence political decisions in general is not surprising. Although political parties generally have youth forums, there are not many young people who are engaged in political parties or any other organisations through which they could be active. Young people need to be encouraged to become more actively involved in political debate as well as to be more engaged in political and other types of organisations, especially when considering the fact that the youth will be responsible for leading BiH in the future. Education institutions could take part in this process under the leadership of education experts in this field.

To strengthen the mechanisms for protection against human trafficking. In regard to the liberalisation of the visa regime and the fact that an increasing number of young people in BiH own a passport and wish to go abroad together with the fact that many respondents were insufficiently informed about the dangers of human trafficking, it is necessary to provide young people with additional information about this phenomenon and about the ways in which they can protect themselves against it. Different governmental and non-governmental organisations could play a role in this alongside education institutions and the media, which are very relevant to the youth.

CONCLUSION ⁴

Basic information about the youth in BiH. The youth of BiH is faced with many challenges. Most are not married, have no children and have not resolved their housing situation. This data is not surprising when one takes into account the determined percentage of unemployed youth and the problems of housing and the financial emancipation of the youth. As a consequence of these and many other factors the natural population growth rate of BiH is decreasing. These issues need to be urgently addressed and resolved if society in BiH is to progress and develop.

Education and access to information. Despite the fact that the completion of primary education is legally mandatory in BiH 3.3% of the young people aged 19-30 had not completed their formal education; this represents a problem that requires urgent resolution. Vulnerable groups in BiH are less educated in comparison to the general population of youth and it seems that education represents a particularly large challenge for the Roma population. Accordingly, government must invest additional effort to enable all young people to realise their right to education. Three out of four young people in BiH have completed secondary education but have not educated themselves further, whereas one in ten has completed a university education.

The youth are most often educated within BiH, although many are willing to be educated abroad. Therefore, young people need to be provided with more information about the opportunities for education abroad and offered more such opportunities; however, they should be encouraged to return to BiH after completing their education. Although the majority of youth is satisfied with the education curricula and their relationship with their teachers and parents, many speak of dissatisfaction and the need for change within the field of education. The voices of the youth should be taken into account to a far greater extent than has been the case up until now.

It seems that forms of education outside of formal ones are not common for most young people in BiH: only one in four of the young people were included in non-formal education programmes. Access to these programmes should be enabled for a higher percentage of the youth. Young people are most commonly informed through television and the Internet, as this is how they spend a relatively large amount of their free time. Therefore, efforts aimed at informing the youth about different interesting topics should be directed through these forms of the media.

Labour market. Approximately every fourth young person in BiH is employed, most often in positions as officers and skilled/highly skilled workers; yet they are rarely employed in managerial positions and this should be addressed through encouraging young people to apply or aim for such positions. It is also necessary to encourage young people to be more assertive and proactive in regard to searching for and securing employment in general. This also applies to their being trusted with more responsibility and positions that carry assignments with such responsibility. It seems that on average young people need significantly more than one year to find employment and that many of them end up employed outside of their educational profile; the latter is a consequence of the unplanned production of the profiled labour force in the country.

The unemployed respondents mostly did not believe that government is working to resolve their problems and a relatively high percentage of them were not even seeking employment: most of these respondents had not even performed part-time jobs during the six month period leading up to the research. Approximately half of the young people who were seeking employment were willing to accept employment outside of their area of expertise and in any sector. Although the number of young people working without a contract has been reduced in relation to 2008 the rights of a significant number of the employed are still not protected and this needs to be addressed systematically. Over 80% of the unemployed were registered with the employment bureau. The young people were rarely employed outside of their municipality of residence or outside the country. Only one in four of the respondents stated that they had heard of governmental employment programmes. Most of the young people believed

⁴ Please note: In this research, the general population of youth was surveyed along with four vulnerable groups of youth, namely Roma youth, youth without parental care, youth with special needs, and youth returnees.

that bribery within employment is often present, which makes the relatively low level of activity in terms of seeking employment, which was a feature of many of the young people, unsurprising. Roma and persons with special needs face particularly difficult challenges in the labour market and this is why additional effort should be made to improve the status of these vulnerable groups.

Economic status. Less than half of the legally adult young people surveyed contributed to their household budget (46.2%), while young returnees contributed significantly more rarely in comparison to the other vulnerable groups. Young people have relatively little money at their disposal: averaging around 230 BAM per month. In addition to this, young people from vulnerable groups have less money at their disposal compared to those from the general population of youth, while Roma and youth returnees are the most vulnerable. The main sources of incomes in youth households are salaries and fees. Social assistance is also an important source of income for youth with special needs and the same applies to agriculture for young returnees. Less than 5% of the young people received scholarships. Very few of them managed to save money: approximately one in ten. Also, very few of them could afford to take bank loans, although many of them were interested. Furthermore, young people from the vulnerable groups took bank loans far more rarely than those from the general population of youth.

Social protection. Most of the young people in BiH were not clients of the centres for social work and not many were in contact with these centres. However, those young people who belonged to vulnerable groups turned to these centres much more often than the general population of youth. The clients of these centres were in most cases youth with special needs. It also appears that the centres for social work were not of use to a large number of the respondents who came into contact with them and consequently further research into their effectiveness should be carried out. A little over 5% of the young people, most often from vulnerable groups, were the beneficiaries of social assistance, most commonly youth with special needs and least often youth returnees. Those young people with a specific degree of disability stated that their disability poses specific difficulties for them in terms of employment, work, how they approach entertainment and recreational activities, gain access to nature and government and education institutions. This suggests that society in BiH remains insensitive to the needs of such persons and the need for further effort in order to enable these groups to realise their rights within society.

Political participation and membership of organisations. Only one in six of the young people claimed that they were interested in politics and most of them believed that they held no influence over decision-making outside of their circle of family and friends as well as in institutions of education and companies. Therefore, it is not surprising to learn that many of the young people did not vote. A little over half of those who had the right to vote in the last elections voted, while those who were employed and more educated did so significantly more often than those who were unemployed and or less educated. Over the previous year most of the young people had not been politically active in any other way. Those young people who had not voted most often did not want to state the reason for not doing so, while the most frequently stated reason was a lack of belief in the voting process as a tool for enabling change. Although the respondents had positive attitudes about the work of youth organisations only rarely were the young people members of such organisations or any other type of organisation. Concerning the vulnerable categories, it appears that the Roma perceived themselves as being the least influential, compared to the other vulnerable groups, in relation to the different groups to which they belonged. Young people need to be encouraged to become more engaged in political debate and activities. Furthermore, only one in ten of the young people reported participation in voluntary activities. The latter is a topic about which the youth should be provided with more information as well as legal protection during any voluntary engagement.

Leisure time and youth mobility. Based on the research it appears that the youth in BiH spends most of its free time watching television, surfing the Internet and socialising. Approximately one-third of the respondent young people had not been to the cinema, theatre or at a concert during the month prior to the survey. It seems that vulnerable groups spend significantly more time watching television compared to the general population of youth, while, at the same time, being far less engaged in other leisure activities, such as going to the cinema, to concerts and such like. The respondents reported spending most of the holidays and school breaks at home: spending, on average, three days at the seaside or in the countryside and four days abroad. A little less than two-thirds of the young people owned a passport and most of them travelled within BiH; approximately two-thirds of the young people had travelled abroad.

Most of the young people wanted to leave BiH: only one in ten stated that they would not leave BiH for an extended period or permanently. In relation to other vulnerable groups, the Roma youth were the most willing to leave BiH for temporary employment, marriage or permanent residence in a foreign country. Most of the young people had heard of the term human trafficking, while two-thirds of the young people considered themselves to be well informed about the ways in which they could protect themselves against it. The youth without parental care respondents also stated that they were well informed about this issue.

Attitudes concerning the present and the future. Most of the young people found satisfaction through having fun and entertaining themselves and also held freedom of expression in high regard. They considered unemployment to be the major problem along with material and economic independence. The Roma emphasised the problem of resolving the housing situation for youth and the issue of social differences, whereas youth with special needs emphasised a crisis of moral values and insufficient care for the youth. Most evaluated their living standard as mediocre and believed that it had not changed during the previous three years and that there would be no change to their living standard in the near future. The young people from the general population claimed more often than those from the vulnerable groups that their living standard had improved over the last three years, whereas the respondents from the vulnerable groups generally held the opposite opinion and reported deterioration in their living standard. In relation to the latter, Roma youth were pessimistic, whereas youth returnees were more optimistic about changes to their standard of living in the future.

Status of vulnerable groups. In this research the attitudes of young people from the general population and those of young people who came from different vulnerable groups within society were examined. This report underlines the fact that vulnerable groups within society in BiH face many challenges, starting from education, employment and income to other aspects of life. Vulnerable groups are significantly more challenged than the general population of youth and therefore it is necessary to undertake measures to eliminate the differences between such groups and the general population if we are to enable all members of society to fully realise their rights.

