



## QUESTIONNAIRES ANALYSIS

During our project Youth in the center we implemented a research from November 2017 to April 2018 about active youth participation and structured dialogue. A questionnaire was created by the young participants of our project in order to support our research.

The questionnaire was directed to young people (**16-30 years old**) from **Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Albania**.

The project partners are Youthnet Hellas – coordinator (Greece), ABS - Active Bulgarian Society (Bulgaria), Alternative Innovative Development (Greece), PVN - Projekte Vullnetare Nderkombetare (Albania) and IFIX (Serbia).

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### ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Balkan region has always been the epicenter of many conflicts in the past centuries. The Balkan wars, two conflicts that took place in the Balkan Peninsula in 1912 and 1913, are indisputably an important part of the European history that was the start of the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. Equally important were Yugoslav Wars that broke out few years after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, wars that exploded among different ethnic groups that formed Yugoslavia and led to the formation of Europe as we know it today. From the official end of the



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war in 2001, Balkan countries slowly but firmly made progress towards economic, social and political development based in our common European, democratic heritage. In fact, nowadays, some of them recently joined European Union and some are in the process of joining EU.

The opening up of countries in Central, Eastern and Western Europe and their accession as member states to the EU brings new dimension to youth issues. In this context youth participation becomes a means for promoting democracy and active citizenship (Kovacheva 2001). However, there are current challenges that affect the democratization process of the Balkan countries, such as poverty, unemployment, corruption, access to social rights and participation of youth in society. Hence, involving youths in addressing such issues is fundamental. Youth participation represents the opportunity of young people to understand democracy and responsibility, in order to be able to deal with democratic values, youth social and human rights and to contribute to the development of democratic structures in their countries, with faith in public authorities, contributing at the same time in the fight against corruption and the strengthening of democracy.

“You(th) in the center” is a 15-month (July 2017-August 2018), 4-country (Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia and Albania) Structured Dialogue project (Key Action 3 Erasmus+ Youth) aiming to establish a network of young people and youth organizations that will contribute to structuring regional thematic cooperation between youngsters on the one hand and public and local authorities on the other. The aim of this cooperation is to improve the environment for youth participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities. By encouraging Structured Dialogue between young people and youth decision-makers this project aims to improve young people’s access to social rights. In the context of youth participation, this project aims to explore what the democratization of knowledge in civil society and active youth participation means in practice.

### **Objectives:**

- Raise awareness of young people’s social rights and their opportunity of engaging in dialogue with the decision-makers, experts and representatives of public authorities in the field of youth
- Bring together – by means of creating a youth network – young people who are suffering from unemployment and poverty, young people from ethnic or religious minorities, with migrant background, young refugees, and to motivate them for political involvement and active participation in civic life within their societies
- Promote European values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities (based on Article 2, Treaty on European Union)
- Increase the level of active citizenship of young people and, consequently build social conscience for democratic participation, both in a local level in their communities and in a European one
- Provide young people the opportunity to develop their competences on tackling personal problems such as unemployment and poverty or problems that their community is facing, such as exclusion from institutions and corruption, by active youth participation
- Promote active participation of young people in Balkans in the development of policies and laws that concern them



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-Inform participants on the Erasmus+ Youth Programme for 2014/2020, giving special focus on active inclusion of youth

50 young people, 18-30 years old from Greece, Albania, Bulgaria and Serbia participate at the project.

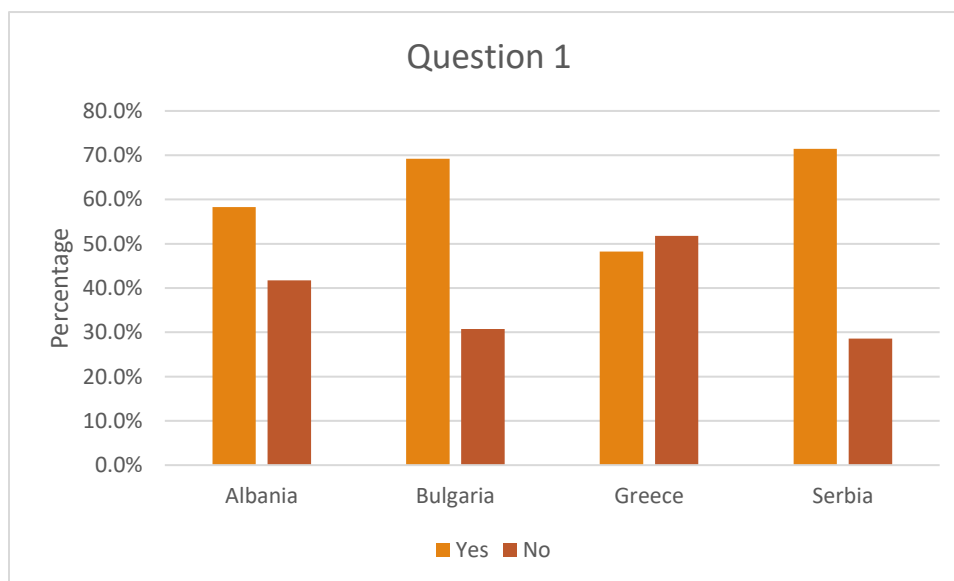
*This project is financed by the Erasmus+ Youth program of European Union and it is supported by the Youth and Lifelong Learning Foundation (Greece).*

## PART 1 – QUESTIONS ANALYSIS

### Question 1 - As a young person, do you feel an active member of the society?

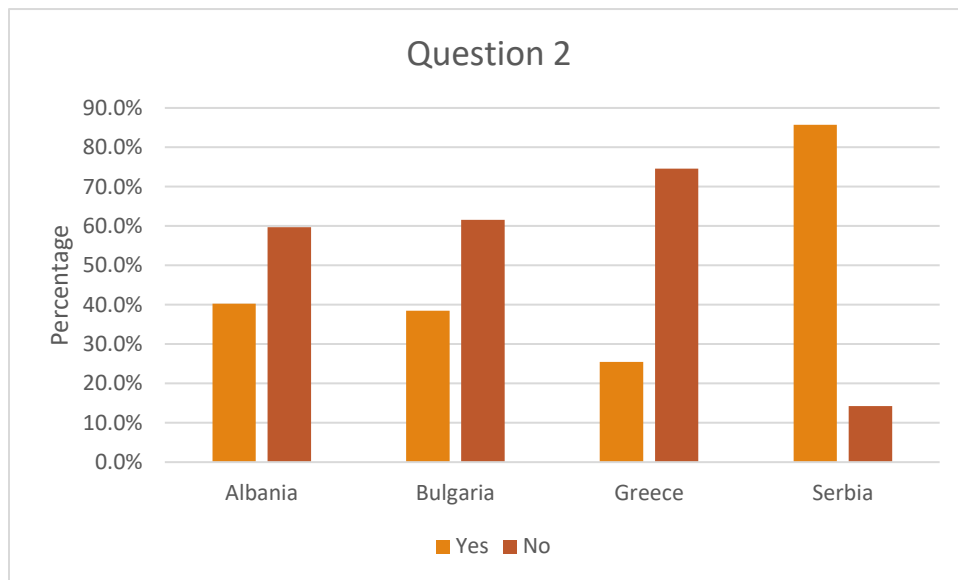
Regarding the first question which asks the participants if they feel active members of the society we can see that the answers are almost equally divided between yes and no. More specifically Albania and Bulgaria have a stronger yes response as almost 60% of the participants in Albania and 70% in Bulgaria feel that they are active members of the society.

In Greece the answers are almost equally divided between yes and no, with a slight prevalence of no with 52 percent. In Serbia yes is also the most popular answer. Trying to evaluate the answers we can assume that many participants are feeling that they could do more in order to be more active citizens which is a positive fact.



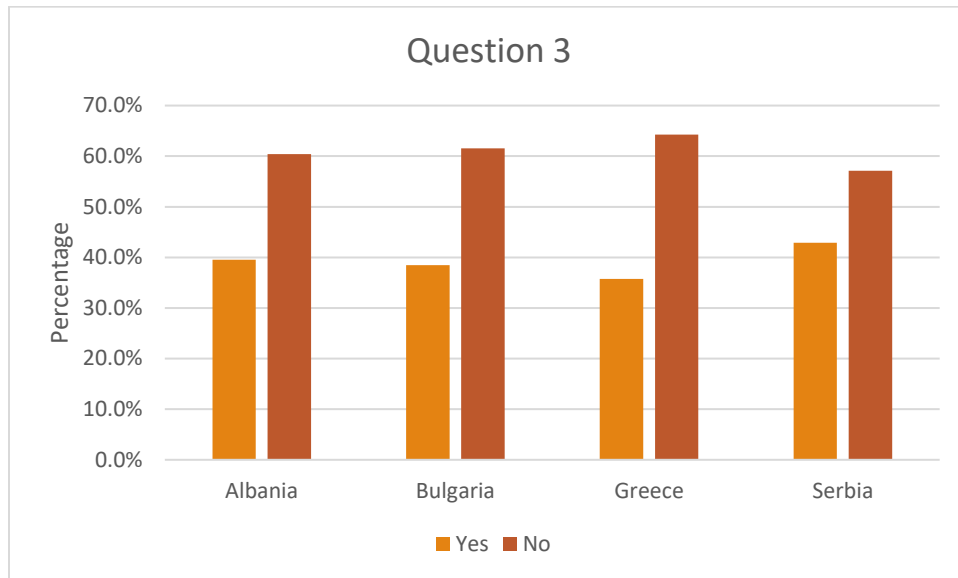
### Question 2 - Are you a member of an organization?

Regarding the second question if the participants are member of an organization we can note that the majority of the participants in Albania, Bulgaria, Serbia and Greece is not a member of any organization. As a percentage, in Albania 40.3% is a member of an organization while 59.7% is not, in Bulgaria 38.5% of the people asked is member of an organization while 74.6 isn't, in Greece 74.6% are not a member while 25.4% is and finally in Serbia 85.7% of the respondents are member of an organization while 14.3% isn't.



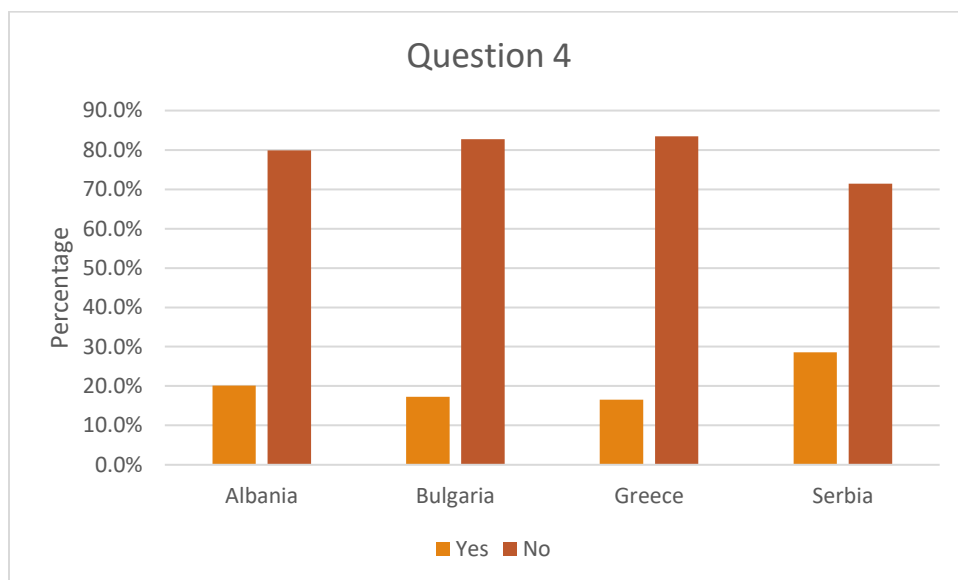
### Question 3 - Do you know what "structured dialogue" is?

The third question is about structured dialogue and if the participants are familiar with the term. We can see that the majority is not familiar with the term as almost 60 percent in Albania, Bulgaria and Greece don't know what structured dialogue is. In Serbia there is a balance as half the participants know what it is. Regarding that structured dialogue is something specific that not a lot of people are familiar with we can say that the percentage of people that know the term is satisfactory.



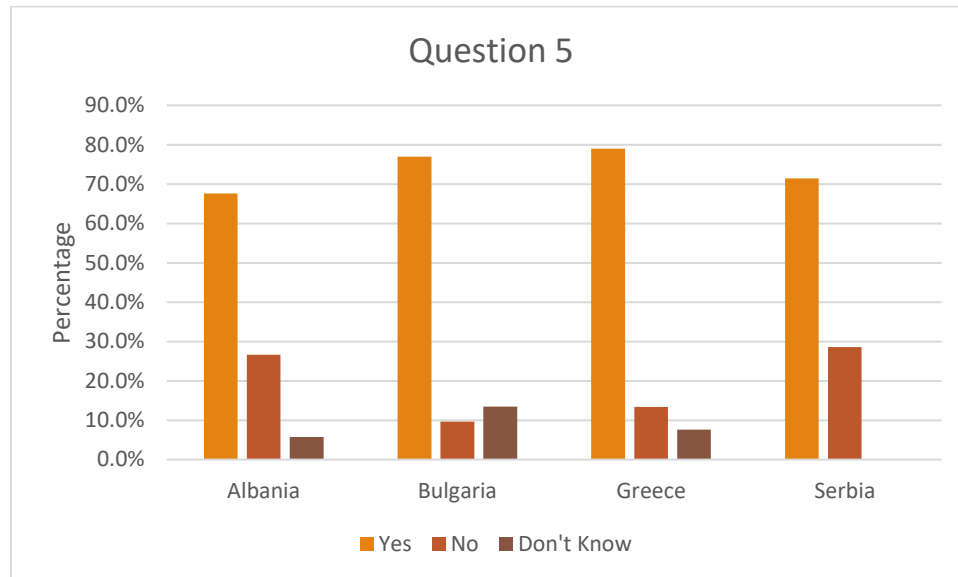
#### Question 4 - Have you ever participated in a “structured dialogue” project or group?

In this question we can see that the majority in all four countries hasn't taken part in a “structured dialogue” project or group. The percentages are telling: 80% in almost every country - with the exception of Serbia where it is around 70% - hasn't participated in such a project. If we compare the results with the previous question we can see that even though many people haven't participated in a structured dialogue project or group they are familiar with the term.



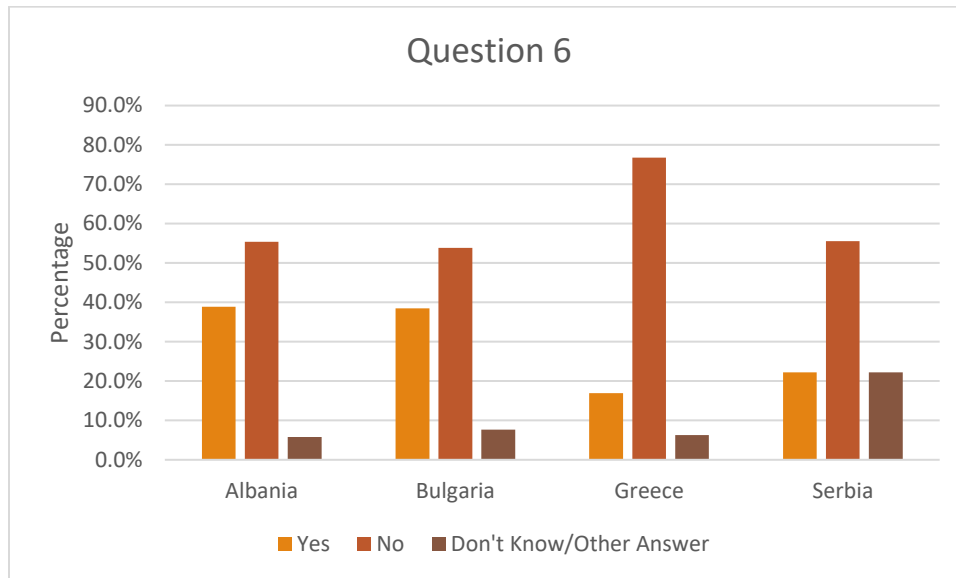
**Question 5 - Do you think that increasing the number of deputy with a young age in parliament could positively influence “structured dialogue”?**

The fifth question asked the participants if increasing the number of young representatives in the parliament could have a positive influence in “structured dialogue”. The results are positive as the majority in all four countries strongly believe that increasing the number of representatives can have a positive influence in structured dialogue. More specifically the percentages are around 67% for Albania, 77% for Bulgaria, 80% for Greece and 72% for Serbia.



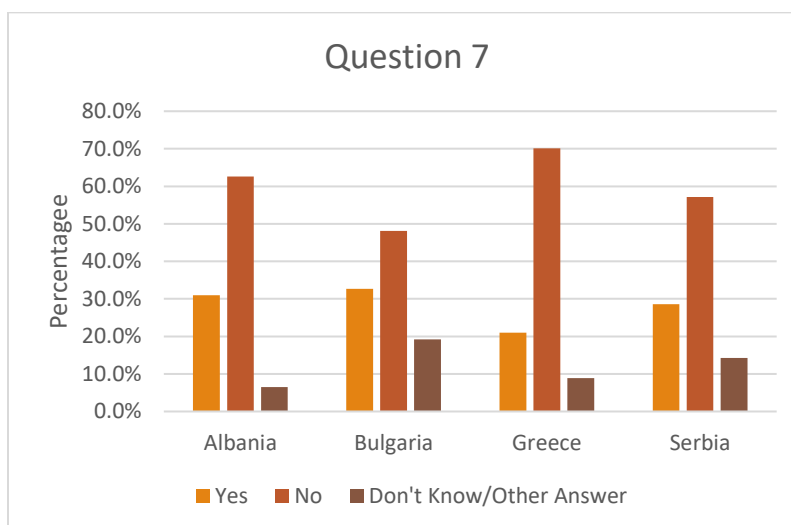
**Question 6 - Do you think the local authorities and government support the structures for participation for young people in local life?**

Regarding the sixth question about the support from government and local authorities to the structures that mediate participation of young people in local life, we can note that the majority believe that there is not enough support. There is, though, a difference in how strongly each participant country believes that. In Albania 55% believes that there isn't enough support, in Bulgaria the percentage is almost the same at 54%, in Greece it is significantly higher at 77% and in Serbia is at 55%. The reason for these results can be three-fold. Either participants aren't familiar with the support that the government and local authorities show in structures for youth participation, there is in reality not enough support for youth participation structures or it denotes a general mistrust of the state and the services it provides as it may very well be the case for Greece.



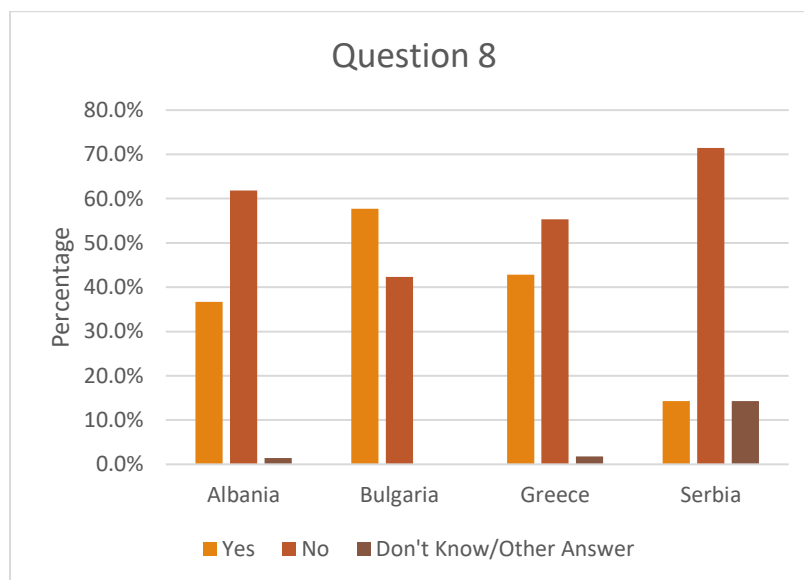
### Question 7 - Do you think that young people's opinions and ideas are taken into consideration on youth policies?

In the seventh question regarding if young people's opinions are taken into consideration on youth policies we have similar results with the sixth question. The majority in all three countries doesn't believe that young people opinions and ideas are taken into consideration but there are difference in how strongly they believe this. 63% in Albania, 48% in Bulgaria, 70% in Greece and 57% in Serbia. Greece is by far the country where most participants believe that the state doesn't take into consideration their opinions and views, with Bulgaria being the one country this feeling isn't so strong. There is almost a 10% that they don't know if this happens in every participant country.



**Question 8 - Do you know any existing or planned actions by local authorities and government that aim at certain specific groups of young people and in active youth participation?**

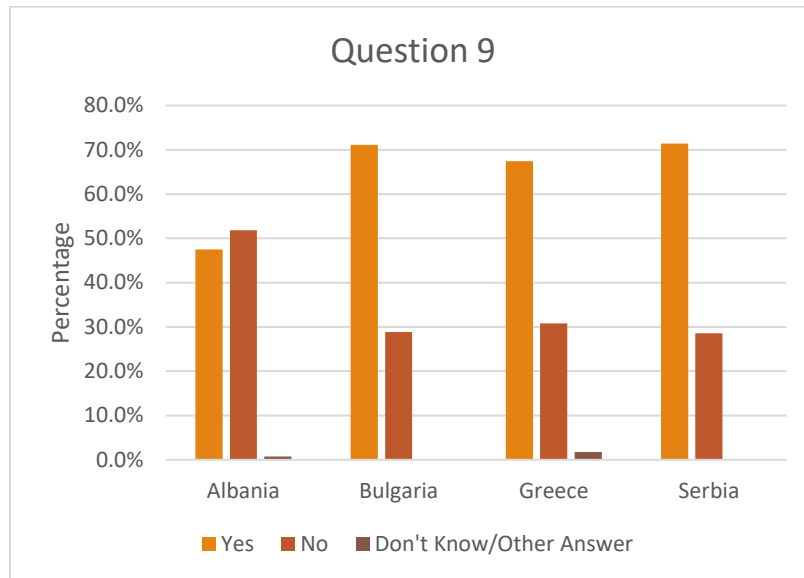
The eighth question is about the participants' knowledge of any planned actions from the government or local authorities that aim at specific groups of young people and in active youth participation. The majority here also don't know whether any such action exists, but there is a sizeable percentage that knows of one. In Albania 37% know of any such action, in Bulgaria this percentage is 42% as it is in Greece, and in Serbia the percentage is 14%. We must note that data for Serbia are incomplete as we have very few respondents. We can say that the percentage is satisfactory and many young people know of such state policies.



**Question 9 - Do you know any existing or planned actions by youth organizations that aim at certain specific groups of young people and active youth participation?**

The 9<sup>th</sup> question was about the knowledge by the respondents of any action by youth organizations that aim in active youth participation. We can see that the majority in each country with the exception of Albania is aware of such actions. More specifically 47.5% of the respondents in Albania knows any such actions while 51.8 doesn't, 71.2% in Bulgaria knows and 28.8% doesn't, in Greece 67.4% is familiar and 30.8% isn't and in Serbia 71.4% knows while 28.6% doesn't any such actions.

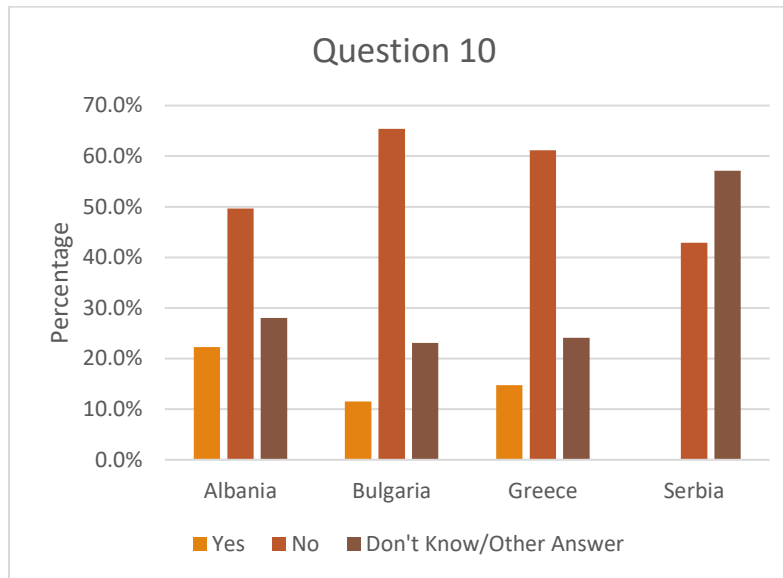




### Question 10 - Do you think that young people with disabilities have the same opportunities as young people without disabilities?

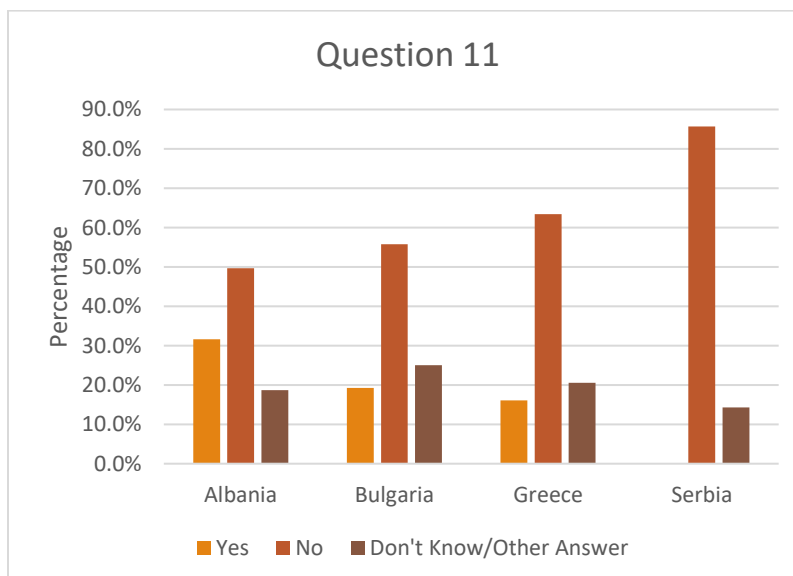
The 10<sup>th</sup> question asks the respondents, whether they believe that young people with disabilities have the same opportunities as young people without. The majority in most countries believes that young people with disabilities don't have the same opportunities as those without but there are also answers that aren't only yes or no as other answers are also given to reflect the fact that they don't know whether young people with disabilities have or not the same opportunities.

In Albania 22.3% said that they believe that young people with disabilities have the same opportunities with those without, while in Bulgaria this percentage is 11.5%, in Greece 14.7% and in Serbia 0%. In Albania 49.6% believe that young people with disabilities don't have the same opportunities as those without, while this percentage in the other countries is, in Bulgaria 65.4%, in Greece 61.2% and in Serbia 42.9%. There is a large percentage of the respondents in each country that don't know or give another answer if young people with disabilities have the same opportunities. This is in Albania 28.1%, in Bulgaria 23.1%, in Greece 24.1% and in Serbia 57.1%.



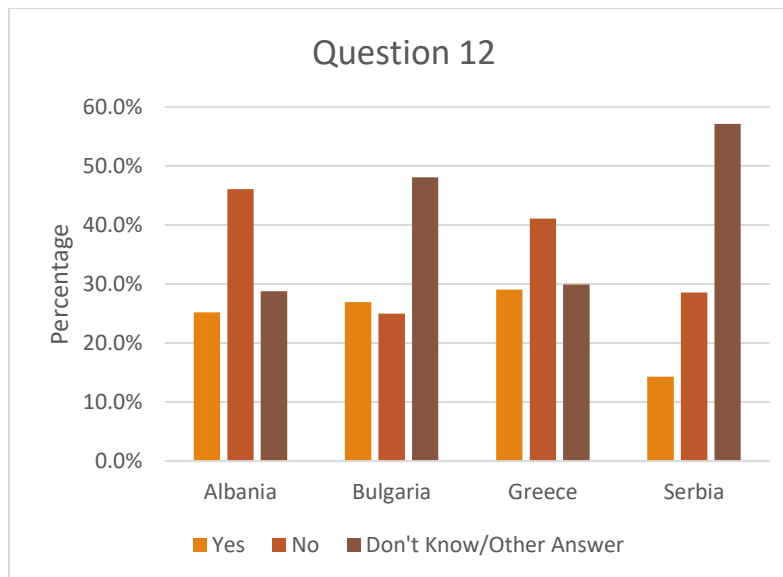
**Question 11 - Do you think that young people with immigrant background, refugees and young people from minorities (such as Roma) have the same opportunities as other young people?**

Regarding whether young people with immigrant background or from minorities have the same opportunities with other young people, the answers in every country are negative. 49.6% in Albania, 55.8% in Bulgaria, 63.4% in Greece and 85.7% in Serbia believe that they don't have the same opportunities as other young people and only a small percentage believes otherwise.



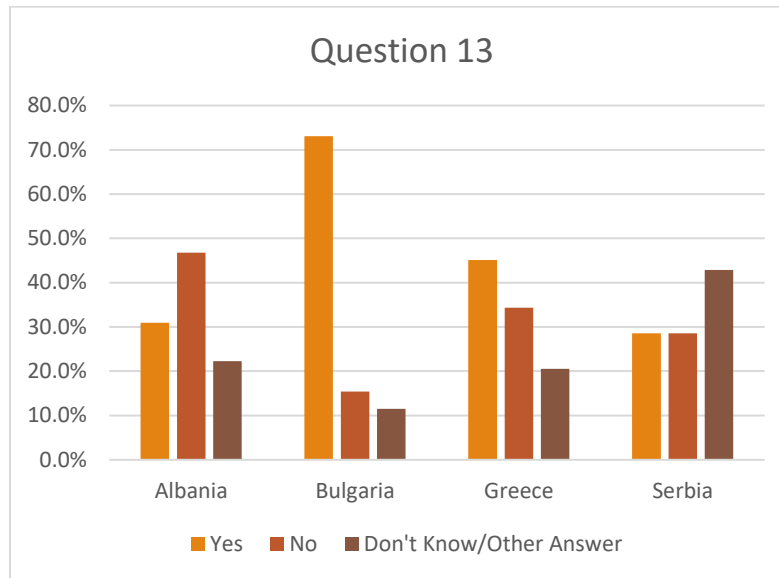
**Question 12 - Do you think that young people from LGBTQI+ community have the same opportunities as other young people?**

This question was whether young people from the LGBTQI+ community have the same opportunities as other young people. Here we see a more balanced response compared to the previous two questions and we also have an increase in the respondents that don't know or give another answer. In Albania there is a prevalence of no with 46%, as more people believe that young people of the LGBTQI+ community don't have the same opportunities as other young people. Yes in the same country is 25.2% and another answer gave the 28.8%. In Bulgaria 48.1% gave another answer from yes or no with these two answers having almost equal percentages around 25%. In Greece the answers are also balanced around 30% with no being 41% and in Serbia the most popular answer is "I don't know/other answer" with 57.1%. Yes is nowhere first so we can safely assume that the opportunities are not the same for members of the LGBTQI+ community.



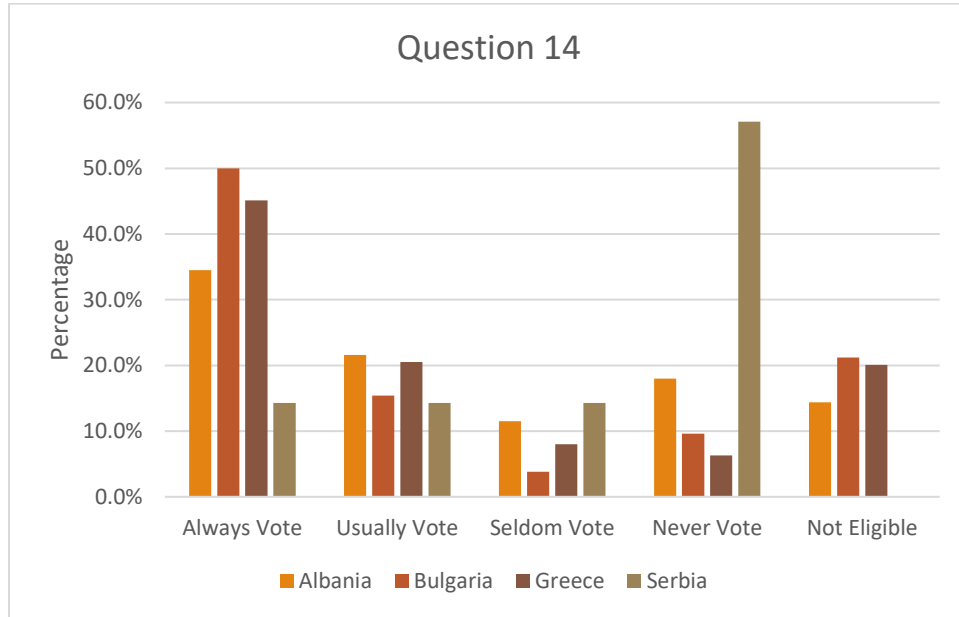
**Question 13 - Do you think young men/boys and women/girls have equal opportunities in your country?**

This question is about gender equality among young people. There we have different answers between the four countries as in Albania the majority believes that there isn't gender equality with 46.8% while in Bulgaria the majority believes by a wide margin of 73.1% that there is gender equality for young people in their country. In Greece there is also a prevalence of Yes with 45.1% while in Serbia the answers are equally divided between the three options.



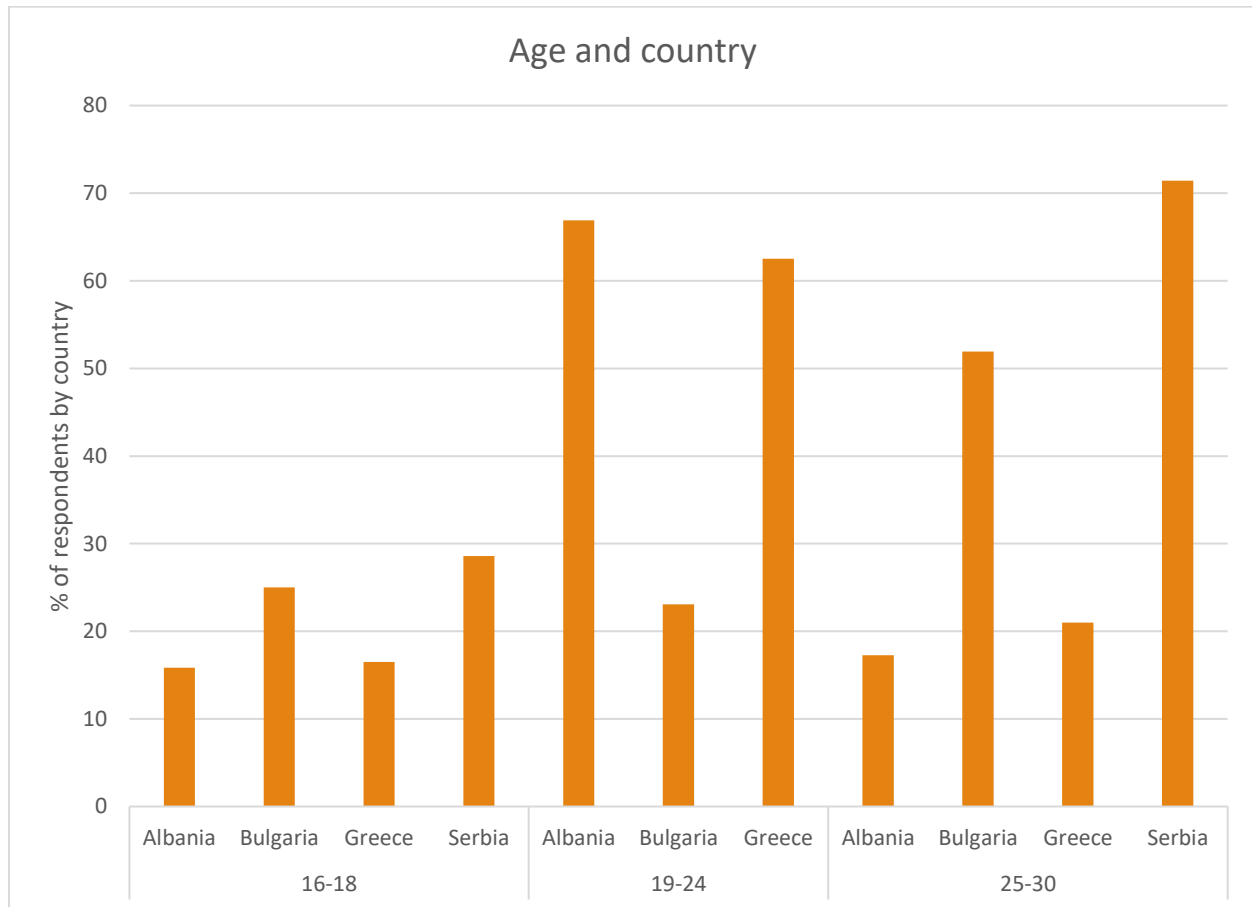
#### Question 14 - Do you vote at the local, National or European (if your country is an EU country) elections?

The last question is about the voting patterns in each participant country. We can note that in Albania, Bulgaria and Greece the majority always votes, with the aggregate of Always Vote and Usually Vote to be well above 50% in every country. In Albania this is around 56%, in Bulgaria 65% and in Greece 65%. Serbia has by far the largest percentage of those that never vote with 57% while Albania also has a relatively high percentage with 18%. There was also a sizeable percentage in Albania, Bulgaria and Greece that weren't eligible to vote due to voting age limit in each country. Generally, with the exception of Serbia there is strong support for democratic governance as the majority of young people try to vote almost every time there is an election. The outlier of Serbia lacks sufficient data and thus we cannot appreciate fully if this is a correct image of the young population in the country.



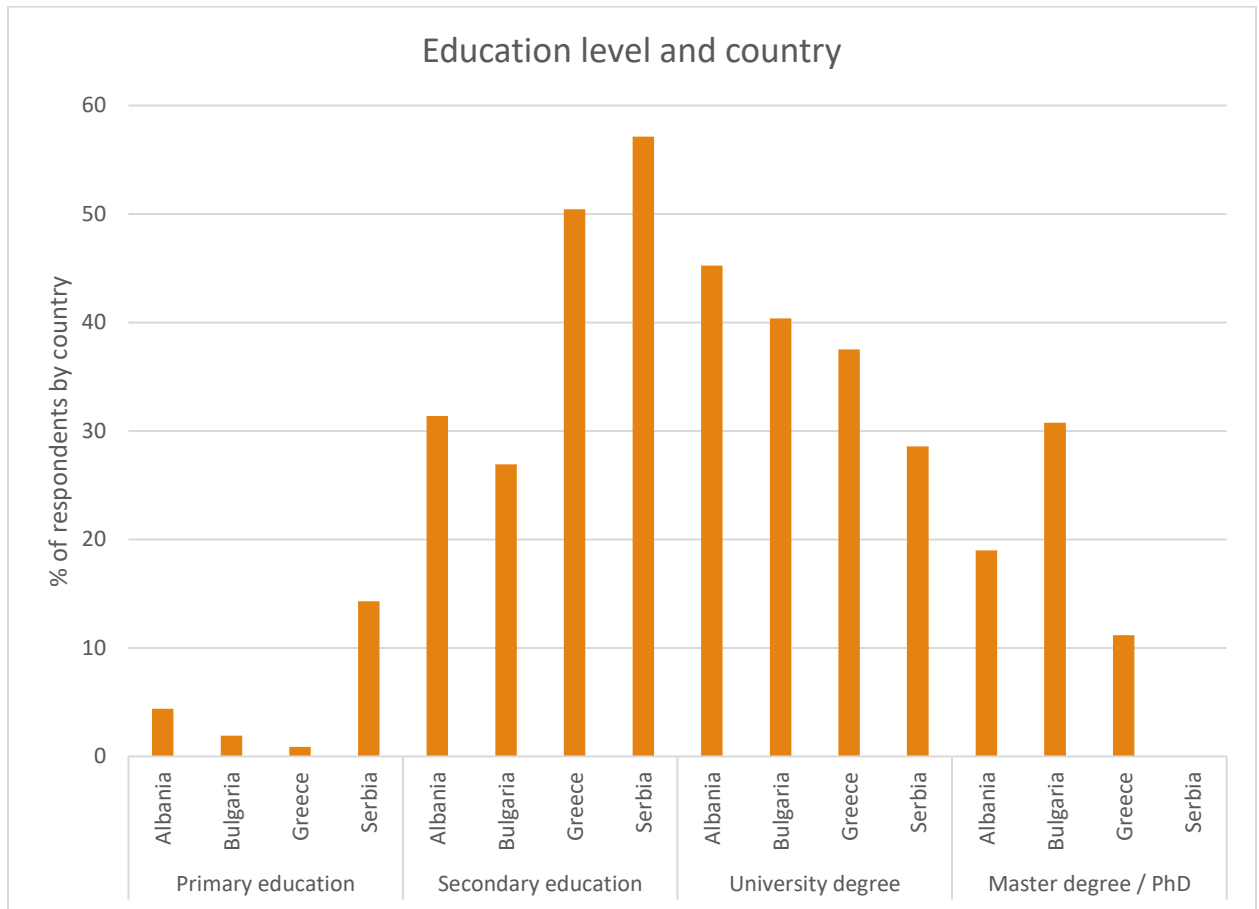
## PART 2 – AGE, EDUCATION, GENDER, RESIDENCE, OCCUPATION ANALYSIS

### i. Age



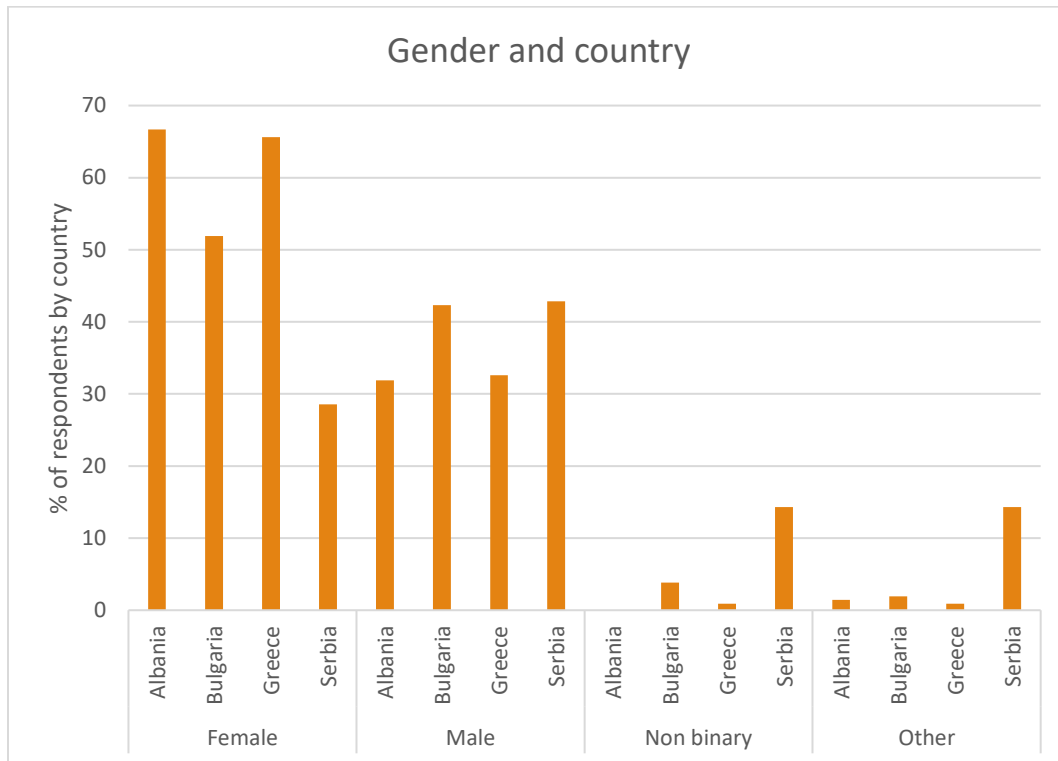
We can see that regarding the age of the respondents, we have different countries predominant in each age group. In the age group 16-18 we can see that Serbia is predominant with around 28% of its total respondents with Bulgaria second with 25%. Around 15% of the respondents from Greece and Albania are in this age group. In the age group 19-24 belongs the majority of the respondents from Greece and Albania with 62% and 67% respectively. Serbia has no respondent in this age group, but we have to note that there were only 7 respondents from Serbia so there was a lack of sufficient data. In the third age group, Serbia is predominant with almost 70% from the Serb respondents to be in this age group, while Bulgaria is also high with 50%. Greece and Albania are around 20%. The highest average age is thus from Bulgaria, as there were more respondents than Serbia, while the majority of the respondents of Albania and Greece was from the second age group.

ii. Education Level



Regarding the education level of the respondents we can see that for Greece and Serbia the majority were high school graduates with around 50% of their respective respondents. For Albanian and Bulgarian respondents the majority has a university degree with around 40%, while also high is the percentage of the Bulgarian respondents that has a master's degree or a PhD with of over 30% of the Bulgarian respondents.

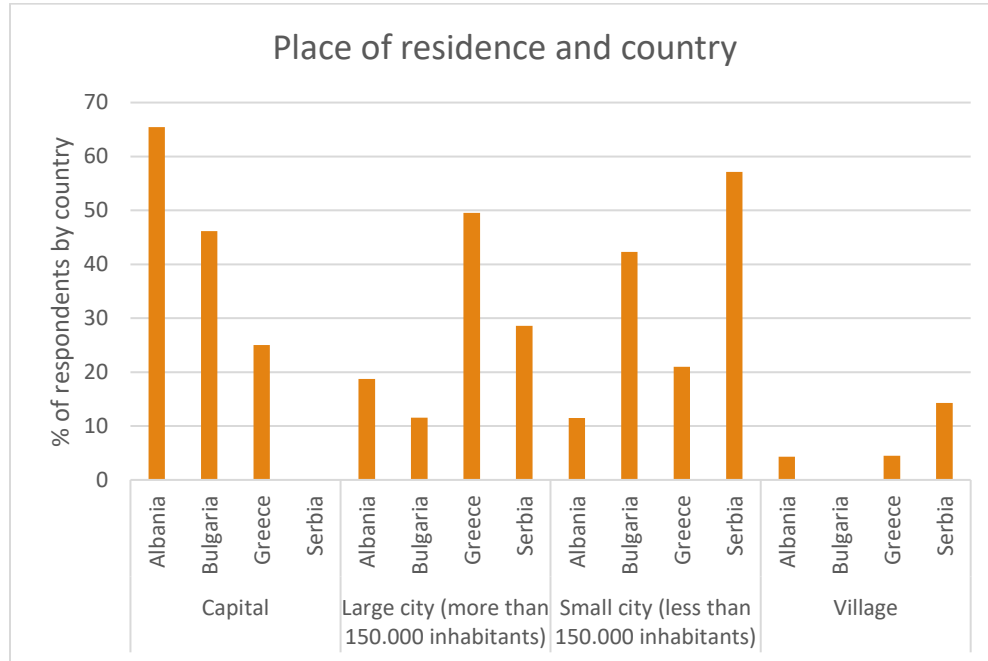
iii. Gender



The gender of the respondents is in favor of the females for the Albania, Bulgaria and Greece as the percentage is well beyond 50%. In Serbia on the other hand, male is the predominant gender with around 42% but we have to note again the small number of respondents for Serbia. There is also a small number of respondents that are non-binary or have chosen another option.

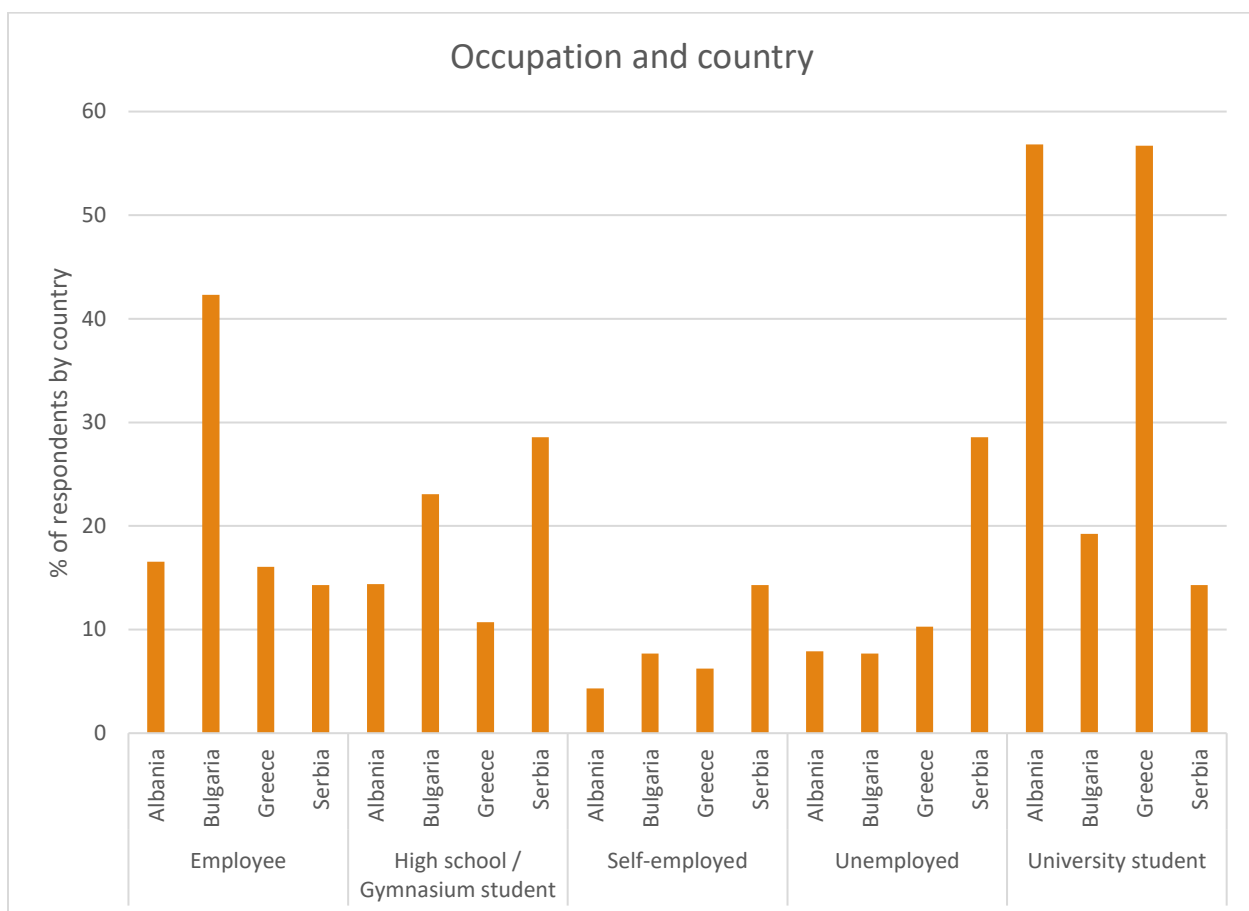
#### iv. Residence





Regarding residence of the respondents, we can note a diversification as every country is predominant in a different group from the other. Albanian respondents come from the capital of the country in almost 65%, while for Greece and Bulgaria this percentage is 25% and 45% respectively. The majority of the respondents (50%) from Greece is from large cities with over 150 thousand inhabitants. While the majority of the Serbians is from small cities with less than 150 thousand inhabitants. Lastly, we can note that a very small percentage from each country comes from villages.

v. Occupation



The occupation status of the respondents is different for each country. For Bulgaria the majority is an employee with 42% while the other 3 countries are around 15% for this group. The majority of the Serbian respondents is high school graduates with almost 30% with Bulgaria being around 22% and Greece and Albania around 10%. For the self-employed group we see that we have a small percentage for all 3 countries around 10% or less and the same is also true for the unemployed group, where only Serbia has a sizeable percentage of 30% of its respondents answering that they are unemployed. For the last group of the university students, the majority of the Albanian and Greek respondents are here with a percentage of 55%, while Bulgaria is around 20% and Serbia around 15%.

## Conclusion:

Concluding this report we can see that we have approximately four categories that we can cluster these 14 questions that we analyzed above. In the first category are the five first

questions which are regarding the participants' active role in the society (questions 1 and 2) as well as some more specific questions about structured dialogue (questions 3, 4 and 5). For the first two questions we can see there is some correlation between those that feel are active members of the society and those that are part of an organization. For example in Greece, where the majority feels that is not active enough the percentage of those who are not part of an organization is also higher than the rest of the participant countries. Generally in all countries we can say that the majority of the participants feel they can do more to become more active members of the society.

The next group of questions (6, 7 and 8) is about the support of each state to its young citizens. Generally in every country the majority feels that there isn't enough support for structures of young people participation in their countries. The negative responses are stronger for Greece which probably portrays the distrust that its citizens have of their government and state in general.

Questions 9,10,11,12 and 13 are whether respondents are aware of any specific government actions aiming to active youth participation and whether there is enough support for various minority groups such as Roma, immigrants and members of the LGBTQI+ community. For question 9 in every country the majority is aware of such actions while for the rest of questions the majority believes that minority groups don't have the same opportunities in their countries as other young people. Regarding question 13 and gender equality, in Greece and Bulgaria respondents believe there is gender equality and young boys and girls have the same opportunities while in Albania they believe that there isn't gender equality and in Serbia the answers are equally divided between yes and no.

Finally question 14 is about voting patterns in each country and how young people are voting. Bulgaria and Greece are the two countries where the majority always votes while the outlier is Serbia where the majority never votes. We can safely assume that there is a strong support for participation in elections.

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