

# REDIRECTING THE YOUNG PEOPLE FROM FAMILY TO THE SOCIETY, THE POLITICAL IMPERATIVE

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**Summary:** Relevance of this research is based upon the fact that the position of the youth in the Republic of Srpska, in a broader sense, is inseparable from recent intense events in the society. The attention has focused on their basic needs (employment, housing, health, sport), what family they have and what kind of family they want, their continued economic dependence upon the family, socio-psychological characteristics and interests.

The results of this study indicate the necessity of precisely designed and differentiated social support of all relevant factors, youth organizations, but also the need of Establishing and standardizing the new forms of work that will remove barriers for inclusion of the youth in development processes and accelerate the resolution of the most actual issues that complicate the situation among youth in the Republic of Srpska.

Fundamental problems of young people within the Republic of Srpska are recognized, depressing status, unemployment, lethargy, the lack of information, laid out a system of values and a deficit in the process of standardization of youth work. To what extent young people in the Republic of Srpska are in the diabolic situation shows the Statistic that states that the two-thirds of young people want to leave the Republic of Srpska.

**Keywords:** Family, young people, society, politics, care, orientation, resource, value system, development potential, the future, work, achievement, opportunity.

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## Introduction

Young people are, upon many assumptions, the most lucrative potential of every community. The family is also the one of steadiest cohesive factors and the carrier of a society's values.

The progress and development of each country is marked and conditioned by the attitude with which politics has conceived solutions in these segments.

In this work, the subject of our analysis will be position and prospects of young people, the current role of youth in the family, and the ability of society to actively engage the young people after the graduation period.

From the analysis of the three cases, the main part of this paper will be the attempt to establish a new concept of preparing the young people to take responsibility and care of the state and society on the one hand and relief of family members capable of earning in favor of a new and more numerous offspring. Upon the hypothesis that taking care of adult family members, which on average have remained economically tied to parents a decade, the society includes the fresh blood into society, and makes room for family renewal, numerically, emotional, hereditary, and etc.

We have conducted a series of research on young people in our country and the environment from which to draw a number of facts and conclusions, and there are also relevant documents of the bodies and institutions of society.

Certain documents and modest research on the family can serve as a starting point for establishing the state in this most vulnerable institution at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Searching for solutions in these two segments of the family and young people, the imperative is placed upon the task of politics, because by creating a political environment the society is able to create the

conditions for its commitment to young people, and thus the transfer of responsibility from the parties to the youth and their associations. This condition is also a prerequisite of economic relief in the function of the birth-rate (small children are small concerns ...).

In the context of life quality, contribution of this work is reflected in the result analysis of the youth population in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska in the last ten years, and their views on numerous questions about their position, perspectives, value systems and etc.

## Young people in the Republic of Srpska

The result analysis of the research projects: “Youth as the development potential of the Republic of Srpska”, is conducted on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2010, in the presence of the Project Team and representatives of the Centre for Social Movements as the project holders and representatives of the Ministry as a co-financier and reviewers at the Faculty of Political Sciences.

The most important facts are presented hypotheses and variables in the theoretical papers as well as the most important research results obtained by the team for field research and the linkage and compatibility of theoretical and research components and the sustainability of the hypothesis set in the project.

### Young people in the Republic of Srpska

Young people today are very practical, and everything that is available to young people they consider it as the basic need. In meeting these needs, there is no excessive effort and sweat, as in earlier generations. They consider it quite normal and that they do need someone else to provide for them. Not only that they have a privileged position in the family, young people are also privileged in the workplace, school, college, community, etc. Everything is allowed to them, and there are few or no demands for them and no expectations.

The youth are a population that is the least satisfied with the current standard of living. That's fine from the standpoint of the energy at their disposal, but they are also not motivated and ambitious to take the burden of change when they become involved in the work process.

The subject of young people interests are the values that make them meet their individual needs at which center is individual and not the common good. Social activism has been replaced by entertainment. The most important for them is to have a good time, to be smug and cool.

There is almost no activity of any business, sports, cultural, creative content of the collective type that would massively activate the youth. All that young people today do, except party, it appears to be done at half of their speed and will.

Previously, in commenting the work of young people, epithets used were self-denial, combustion, shock-work, up to exhaustion, blood sweat and blisters. Today, these attributes have disappeared and they are almost humorous.

Young people are more focused on themselves, without idols, not burdened with many follies, and except the fact that they ignore the reality, they deny any kind of success merging it into the sea of weakness.

It appears that young people generally have a favorable opinion of themselves, they are interested in others as much as they can ignore them, gossip, and deny the merits and success.

Distrust of our own resources, the lack of unity among the youth and bad attitudes toward others is continually pulling them in the electoral abstinence, although their mass participation in elections would importantly affected the political scene at the local and at national level.

According to the current research, in almost all variants and out of all things that surround them, the family is kept in focus by young people.

Young people are mostly indifferent to politics as an activity. They also have negative attitudes regarding the morality and ethics in politics. The reason is the political passivity of youth, social inactivity and opportunism of a large number of young people over the leadership of their organizations which they view as a separate group of young people who only watch over their own interests.

Among all age groups, young people maybe have the clearest and most honest relationship towards **religion**. Responsibility is probably at the lowest position on the scale of values.

The facts about the **faith**, dictated by events, are too much imposed to them by the media, family, community, etc.

Although the economy is directly the most important for the employment, gross income, standard of living, and indirectly for education, health, social welfare, this is the sphere of imagination to young people.

They are hearing and learning about **tradition** at home, through religion and possibly history. However, far more attractive, more compelling and practical modernization wins the youth.

Young people have a critical attitude towards **responsibilities**. Attitude towards **work** is not very positive, not believing that the labour can achieve success and welfare. They view the professions through the benefits that they bring. **The profession** largely determines the fate of people, their status, success and personal satisfaction.

**The education** is not attractive by itself. It is hard to say that education is a planned and structured to comply with the evolving needs of society.

**Solidarity** disappeared with the individualism, and by Freud's theory of evolution and struggle for survival, the young people only look after themselves.

**Success** is everyone's goal, but through indirect, roundabout way, by slalom and shortcuts with the least of work, sweat and effort.

For us, the **democracy** entered through the front door, but shortly after a great number of attributes was added to it in practice.

There are numerous non-governmental organizations and movements which have failed to develop into civil society in the transition period.

There is a wide range of activities and involvement of NGOs in the post-war society.

In our conditions, many NGOs have headquarters abroad or they are foundations with the vague engagements and projects.

They attract young people because they are dealing with a number of social issues with optimism that they can be positively resolved by channeling mostly young people in their projects into action.

For young people is to recognize the quality and as soon as possible participate in the formation of civil society whose framework could be educated, capable, motivated and working young people as the development potential of the Republic of Srpska.

## Interests Of The Youth In The Republic Of Srpska

Young people are aware that the real economic growth and development is based upon the new technologies and skills. Knowledge is a fundamental resource for the development of the entire social life.

To support the youth today, means to contribute to the development of knowledge - science, culture and civilized society, to promote ethics and aesthetics of individual and community life.

Active participation of youth in activities and decision-making at local and national level is essential if we want to build a democratic, inclusive and prosperous society. Youth initiative in the first place depends on their needs and interests. Countries in the region, taught by the examples of other European neighbors in the last few years, have changed the approach in addressing youth issues. The interests of young people are viewed through the several chapters.

I am particularly talking about science and culture, music they listen to, sports, hobbies, extracurricular activities, engineering and technology - computers, mobile phones; travelling, contents they consume (books, magazines, movies, cinemas, theaters, concerts, sports events), the way they have fun (while going out, frequency of dates, places to hang out, the needs of young people), the media to which they are oriented and type of content they are attracted to (TV, radio, newspaper, Internet), youth participation in different organizations, humanitarian work, volunteerism, the way they spend and earn money, entrepreneurship, politics, etc.

The obvious feature of reality becomes the “trash”, the paradigm of all that exists, and even the former cultural values. Young people at school do not set high goals for themselves. Only if we take the reading habits of young people, they are such that we can be very concerned. Young people rarely visit cultural events. Nearly half of young people are not going to the theatres and museums. The studies that were conducted among young people in Serbia confirmed almost the same thing. About 1/3 of young people goes there 1-2 times a year, and more than once a month less than 2%.

Young people with music - are the intimate connection between certain interactions. Some studies suggest that the most popular types of music are pop and folk music (about 60% of students said that they are listening this kind of music), and techno - something less (about 50%) and R&B (31%).

The largest number of youth are not involved in sports (in Serbia, the ratio is about 39%). The research done there shows that 37% of young people are engaged in recreational sports and 24% are practicing some kind of sport. Young people have a great curiosity and leisure activities. Extra-curricular activities are not very present or rather underrepresented in the life of school youth. The arrangement of youth organizations and other NGOs, Civic Associations and Movement is extremely emphasized.

Studies show that about three-quarters of young people went on a trip. Analyzing the relationship of youth to the print media shows that young people in newspaper follow up the sections related to entertainment, celebrities, black chronicle and sports.

On TV, most young people watch movies, sports, series and TV shows, for example “Big Brother” and etc. One of the three items that the most of young people spend money on are going outs. It is already mentioned that the high school students usually spend money on mobile phone and hanging out. Looking at the situation in the Republic of Srpska, young people often spend their free time hanging out, watching television and with the mobile phone. Young people expressed the great interest in the field of technical education, computer science and information technology. Most young people use computers daily at home, while school computers are generally available only in computer classes. Mobile phones are an integral part of life for youth. Five most valued private goals are related to the support of friends, the realization of love, gaining independence, the acquisition of material values and reputation. Desirable social goals for young people are: free education, providing conditions for employment, independence, to have a family (“familiarity”) and providing housing, crime prevention, raising the standard of living and building society with more human relations. Young people see the European Union as the most difficult achievable social goal.

The research showed that 58.5% percent of young people are currently unemployed in the Republic of Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is almost four times higher than in other EU countries. Young people are mostly employed as salesmen, waiters, teachers and craftsmen, and in rare

cases as state officials.

In the project “Everyday of young people in Serbia”, at the Institute of Psychology on the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, the private models of youth were studied, as well as role models in public life. Slightly more than half of respondents say they have a model of private life. Mothers are the most common patterns, then fathers, brothers and sisters. The most frequent risky behaviors of young people are drinking, smoking and disturbed sleep patterns. Smoking is also very widespread among young people. According to the evaluations of high school students, more than 30% of their classmates are smokers. The sexual behavior of young people is safer than it appeared at the first sight: 58% thought that many of their peers do not engage in sex without love. As older, children are more vulnerable. Young people from more rural areas are in lesser extent threatened in comparison with young people from major cities. Girls are generally more frightened and generally more worry than boys.

## **The Youth as Driving Force of the Republic of Srpska Towards and in the European Union**

The big problem of young people in the Republic of Srpska is the unemployment rate which is the most common reason for their departure from this country. The quality of life for youth in transition countries is below any minimum, and in such new conditions even adults cannot cope with this circumstances. Information that is not recorded in any other transition country shows that the population between the age of 18 and 25 in the Republic of Srpska is two and a half times more unemployed, and the rate is two and a half times higher than for the older population. The most important document on the youth participation in decisions that affect their lives is the European Charter on Youth Participation in the life of the local and regional level.

Youth Policy in the EU is under the jurisdiction of Member States. The most important program for young people across Europe funded by the EU is “Youth in Action” program. Youth activism reflects the willingness of young people to become actively involved in organized form of action that leads to changes in the society. In the Republic of Srpska, struggling through youth activism, the young are now fighting for minority rights, gender equality, equal participation of youth in decision-making, representing marginalized groups and work on the idea that the Republic of Srpska becomes a fair society where everyone has equal opportunities.

Young people are dissatisfied with the community attitude to their needs and problems and believe that they cannot make a lot of influence on politics in the Republic of Srpska. They are frustrated with the work of state bodies, judiciary, police and municipal administration. The biggest obstacles for improving the situation of young people are corruption, which is often cited as a team with crime, unemployment, non-inclusion of young people, disregard toward their opinion, lack of awareness of both - the old and young, distrust in young, difficult economic situation, the bureaucracy, nepotism, etc. The main problems faced by the young are growth of drug addiction, bad policy-making, passivity and isolation of institutions toward them, lack of youth policy, national parties’ conservatism and primitivism. From the above, it is evident that young people are aware of the problems and obstacles, but are not convinced they can change the current situation.

Most young people in the Republic of Srpska are not satisfied or only partially satisfied with cultural and sports activities. “The sports clubs have joined in 27.93% of respondents, the youth organization close to half of the respondents and in non-governmental organizations over 40% of young people. The number of young people who are active in sports, youth and NGOs is unsatisfactory.

## The basic needs of young people

Needs and motives are the main drivers of human behavior. Young people need opportunities to satisfy the motives for companionship, belonging to the group, acceptance, appreciation, acquisition of new skills and knowledge which are useful for life. Educated young people are the most important resource of any society which is essential for development and progress. The transition process brought fundamental changes in the structure of employment. The total share of youth unemployment is, unfortunately, very high (about 40%). In every opportunity it is important to stress the importance of investing in young people because young people are the social group that guarantees a multiple return on investment. It is also important to understand that young people easily accept new ideas and can easily monitor the speed of technological change (innovation potential), which requires a flexible, mobile and skilled workforce.

Housing problems of young people are closely related to the problem of employment, because very few young people have a chance to solve this existential problem. The document, "Analysis on Youth and Youth Sector in B&H", conducted by the Commission for Youth Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, said that "93% of young married couples do not own their own apartment or house, 85% of young people live with their parents, 78% in apartment or house owned by their parents, and 6% live in rented flats.

Health is an essential part of human development that provides economic, social and psychological development of the society. However, it is important to say that the health of young people is investment in the future, and a healthy offspring is the guarantee of social, economic, cultural and all other forms of development and prosperity of a country. Health and education of children and young people in the first most sensitive period of life belongs primarily to the family, then health and education facilities. Physical inactivity affects the abnormal development of the body and promotes the formation of certain deformities and diseases.

A prerequisite is the establishment of youth participation, information flow and dialogue between young people and local authorities. Freedom of association is the foundation of civil society and it is one of the fundamental constitutional values which guarantee citizens the right to freedom of association in order to protect their legitimate interests or promotion of social, social, political, cultural and other beliefs and goals.

## Family

*(What kind of family do we have? What do we want?)*

The stabilization of adults is happening by means of acceptance of family values. Parents should make the most impact on the education of their children. Natural and social function of parents is that they transfer the best of their physical, intellectual, moral, emotional life to their children. The family forms the child's social attitudes, habits of order and work and social behavior. The three issues most concerns young people, in the sense that more than a third of them experienced these problems as a major or significant: *a bit of interesting places to hang out (46%), the lack of free time (41%) and boredom (35%)*.

### *Characteristics of young people*

If we consider the role of youth in society, there is a conflict between social perceptions of young people and their self-perception, and discrepancy between real and attributed characteristics of the youth. So-

cial space in which young people could express their creativity is minimal. Potentials of youth (vitality, inventiveness, education) decline in passive standby while waiting and seeking opportunities for their realization. Because of the characteristics ascribed to them, young people have low social status and as such they suffer discrimination and marginalization. It is necessary to develop the potential of youth through education, culture and true social value. Cultural quality of a society can be measured through visits to a certain cultural institutions. Young people are just passive consumers of mass culture. The influence of culture in everyday life is minimal. Youth participation presents their involvement in social life. Young people should be involved in decision making about the role of important things in the community. It is necessary to establish the institutions through which the voice of youth can be heard. Active participation of young people can take place through formal and non-formal groups.

## Conclusions

The “Youth as a development potential of the Republic of Srpska” Project, entered the domain of perceiving the operationalization of optimal opportunities for young people as the development potential of the Republic of Srpska.

The relevance of this research is grounded upon the knowledge that the situation of the youth in the Republic of Srpska, in a broader sense, is inseparable from intense events in the modern society at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Inner transitional changes cause the radical change in the existing forms of youth activities and establishing the new approaches in the valuation of natural resources of the Republic of Srpska and young people as its most vital human resource.

Theoretical foundation of the research is well-designed selection of topics in which the authors perceive the analytical problems of youth as a driving force in the European Union. Even their basic needs are analyzed (employment, housing, health, sports), the desire for family, their extended economic dependence upon the family, socio-psychological characteristics and interests. The empirical part of the project is set upon precisely defined research hypotheses, explained research methods and techniques, comprehensive and well-structured questionnaire (survey instrument), defined population, representative sample and methods of the unit selection in the sample.

The realization of this is project had a lot of theoretical and empirical scientific-methodological foundations, by which are completely realized the main goals and objectives of this study and thus justified the financial investment. The results of this study indicate to the necessity of meaningful and accurately differentiated support of all relevant social factors, youth organizations, and the establishment and standardization of new forms of work that will remove barriers to youth involvement in development processes and accelerate the resolution of the most current issues that complicate the situation of the youth in the Republic of Srpska.

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