Young people in Albania - in poverty, unemployment and willing to leave the country!

The second National Report "Youth in Albania 2019" shows that the country continues to be one of the first countries in Europe for youth unemployment, brain drain, girl killing and student poverty!

Tirana, 6 November 2019 – Albanian Coalition for Education supported the CRCA / ECPAT Albania, Albanian National Youth Network - ANYN and Child and Youth Policy Hub, the 2nd National Report “Youth in Albania 2019”. The report seeks to inform policymakers, state institutions, and young people in particular about the situation of youth in Albania, the problems identified and to recommend solutions to relevant institutions.

The preparation of this report is of particular importance to Albania and the entire youth movement. It is the second time that the youth movement comes together to monitor and evaluate the work of public institutions at central and local level for youth and the impact that state policies have had on youth and their movement in Albania.

The second National Report “Youth in Albania 2019” highlights the most critical findings addressed by young people throughout 12 regions of the country.

- **High rate on youth unemployment in Albania**, 73 % of young people have addressed unemployment as their most worrying problem, this was highlighted in the National Survey “Youth in Albania 2019.” While official data reveal that ranging from 20.9% in 2019 according to INSTAT to 32.8% according to the ILO, while.

- Young people's desire to leave and study abroad, “Youth brain drain,” ranks Albania in the first place in Europe. 35% of students who have completed the first level of higher education and about 30% of Albanian students aim to study abroad. According to Gallup 79% of young people are willing to leave the country, by placing Albania at the top of the list of countries where young people leave.

- **Albania ranks among the first countries in Europe for girls and women murders.** Data from various national and international organizations show that 88.8% of women and girls in Albania are victims of all forms of violence and 65% of them have experienced domestic violence. If we refer to the last two years the number of girls (age group 15-29) killed by their partners goes to 7 girls.

- The socio-economic conditions in which young people live in Albania has led to an increase of youth crime. The 2018 data show that 38% of criminal convictions are handed down against youth, a situation that requires immediate intervention.

- Poverty and youth unemployment serve as a ground that generates, among other things, violent extremism, and radicalization. The European Commission's 2018 report states that of the 144 Albanian nationals who went to Syria and Iraq to fight in the armed conflicts. Almost 73 people (including 18 fighters and 55 family members), among them children and youth are still in conflict affected areas such as Syria. While the latest Report of 2019, finds disturbing the rise in online religious radicalism in Albania.

- At national level, 62% of young people do not trust the political parties, while about 57% of them rate the work of the local government and youth sectors with zero points. In the last local elections
over 50% of young people did not want to vote, by showing the increase level of distrust that they have towards the political parties in Albania.

The 2nd National Report “Youth in Albania 2018-2019,” addresses the following recommendations

**To the Albanian Parliament:**
- To establish the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Youth;
- To promote the support of youth lead businesses;

**To the Government and the Council of Ministers:**
- Establish new programs that promote employment of boys and girls and support youth businesses, with a particular focus on vulnerable youth.
- Establish community support programs for young people, both to empower them and for those with anti-social or criminal behaviour, to build opportunities for them to rehabilitate and integrate in the society.
- Draft the New Action Plan for Youth and increase budget for Youth.

**To Municipalities in Albania:**
- Establish Youth Sectors, and the City Councils must adopt a specific budget line to fund youth programs and initiatives of youth organizations and groups;
- Prepare a 3-5 year Local Youth Action Plans in order to address what is missing in local public policies.
- Representatives of municipalities in full co-operation with the Council of Ministers and line ministries work organize and finance community services necessary for the prevention and treatment of gender based violence.

**For civil society youth organizations:**
- Exert more pressure and establish accountability and monitoring mechanisms for public elected, local and central government institutions on youth issues;
- Undertake national awareness campaigns on girls' rights and respect for them in school, community, family and society and be more sensitive and to work harder to prevent and reduce hate speech among young people in Albania;
- Youth organizations in the country should be more involved in awareness-raising campaigns and support youth start-ups to promote youth employment across the country.