

YOUTH STUDIES SOUTHEAST EUROPE 2023-24

Terms of Reference

- Regional Authors-

Tasks & Responsibilities	
<p>1 Background</p>	<p>In an effort to gain a deeper understanding of young people's perceptions and expectations regarding various political and societal issues, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is conducting an empirical study of youth in Southeast Europe (as well as Turkey and Greece).</p> <p>The FES Youth Studies, conducted in Southeast Europe in 2018/2019 and Central Eastern Europe and the Baltics in 2021/2022, will serve as the model and point of orientation for this study.</p> <p>The country reports will be based on independent representative surveys, which will be conducted simultaneously in 12 countries of the region: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Greece, and Turkey.</p> <p>The contracting entity is the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Dialogue Southeast Europe. Some elements of standardization and regional coordination will apply.</p> <p>Full access to the data obtained through the surveys will be provided to the authors of the country reports. Current literature and secondary sources from contemporary youth studies in the respective country should also inform the reports.</p>
<p>2 Objectives</p>	<p>This study is intended to examine the needs, attitudes, and perceptions of young people regarding a range of topics, such as employment, mobility, perceptions of democracy, and trust in institutions, as well as to foster public discussion of these issues.</p> <p>Specifically, the FES is interested in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The role of youth in the political development of Southeast European societies, as well as their relationship to their societies and political systems. - Identifying patterns of political participation, perceptions of democracy, fears and hopes for the future, and trust in national and international institutions, as well as interpreting these patterns within the context of changing political realities, democratization processes, and the connection between demography and democracy.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential contributions and recommendations for developing youth and social policies within the region on topics such as education, mobility/brain drain, employment, political participation, and anti-discrimination.
<p>3</p>	<p>Methodology</p>	<p>The study will be based on a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods and primary as well as secondary sources. Specifically, the following data-gathering techniques will be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A national representative survey based on a standardized core questionnaire and a CAWI survey implemented by the framework polling agency resulting in a first report. - Focus group discussions with young people from different social backgrounds, implemented by the framework polling agency and resulting in a first report to obtain qualitative insights into the subject matter of the study. - Use of secondary sources. <p>The surveys will be conducted by a framework polling agency that will be contracted separately. The survey questionnaire will cover the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A. Values, religion, and trust; - B. Family and friends; - C. Mobility - E. Education - F. Employment - G. Politics. - I. Demographic data. - J. Addendum: Confidential Questions
<p>4</p>	<p>Study Format</p>	<p>Country reports should broadly adhere to the following structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction (outlining the purpose of the study and the core research questions) - Short methodological section - Concise conceptual section incl. a brief literature overview - Analysis of the core overarching themes specified above, based on the survey data, interviews, and secondary sources, and grounded in relevant contemporary literature. This is the central part of the country study and should have a strong analytical dimension, interpreting (not describing) the collected data and information

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - When analyzing country-specific data, the authors should consider the findings of the other countries as well for comparative and illustrative purposes - Recommendations derived directly from the study's findings, tailored to particular target groups and addressing concrete policy issues and institutions - Conclusions containing the most relevant findings - Bibliography - Annexes, if necessary <p>The desired length of the overall study, excluding the bibliography, annexes, and footnotes, is 40-50 (max) pages (ca 15,000 -20,000 words).</p> <p>The regional study's writing/referencing style and design must comply with FES standards and guidelines, which the FES will provide.</p> <p>The regional study for this project should be an original contribution, adhering to high standards of academic research, including proper referencing and avoiding plagiarism.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Tasks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review previous FES regional youth studies. b) Review relevant literature and secondary sources and integrate/use it in the report. c) Participate in a regional author workshop. d) As an analytical basis, use the data from the national survey. It is expected that the authors are well-versed in statistical analysis. e) Produce a first draft. f) Present and discuss preliminary findings at a regional workshop. g) Produce a pre-final draft, integrating inputs from the policy workshop and FES feedback. h) Modify and upgrade the country study in line with editorial feedback received by the FES (expect between two and four rounds of comments). Editorial feedback will primarily focus on the structure, coherence, and depth of analysis and writing. i) Provide the final report in English by the agreed deadline (incl. language editing by a native speaker). <p>The FES SOE retains the right to reject reports and require updates and withhold payment on the grounds of missed deadlines, sub-par language quality, or inadequate integration of editorial feedback.</p>

6	Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Documented experience in qualitative and quantitative research. ➤ Documented expertise in policy research. ➤ Good knowledge about democratization processes, political participation, European Integration, and the region of Southeast Europe. ➤ Statistical analysis skills. ➤ Capacity to deliver the final report in flawless English. 																								
7	Timeline	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Literature Review, Secondary Resources Processing</td> <td>Own planning</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quail Data Delivery by polling agency</td> <td>November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Payment 1st rate</td> <td>The end of November 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regional workshop</td> <td>20.-22.11.2023 – Tirana</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Writing report</td> <td>November, December 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First results workshop</td> <td>December 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Final study workshop</td> <td>January 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hand in the final study in English</td> <td>End of January 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance payment</td> <td>To be agreed with FES SOE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proofreading, translation, and design</td> <td>February, March 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Publishing & Launch of the Regional Studies</td> <td>April 2024</td> </tr> </table>			Literature Review, Secondary Resources Processing	Own planning	Quail Data Delivery by polling agency	November 2023	Payment 1 st rate	The end of November 2023	Regional workshop	20.-22.11.2023 – Tirana	Writing report	November, December 2023	First results workshop	December 2023	Final study workshop	January 2024	Hand in the final study in English	End of January 2024	Balance payment	To be agreed with FES SOE	Proofreading, translation, and design	February, March 2024	Publishing & Launch of the Regional Studies	April 2024
Literature Review, Secondary Resources Processing	Own planning																									
Quail Data Delivery by polling agency	November 2023																									
Payment 1 st rate	The end of November 2023																									
Regional workshop	20.-22.11.2023 – Tirana																									
Writing report	November, December 2023																									
First results workshop	December 2023																									
Final study workshop	January 2024																									
Hand in the final study in English	End of January 2024																									
Balance payment	To be agreed with FES SOE																									
Proofreading, translation, and design	February, March 2024																									
Publishing & Launch of the Regional Studies	April 2024																									