

Youth brain drain from the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership and Türkiye



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Overview

- **Chapter 1: Aim and Methodology**
- **Chapter 2: Causes of Youth Brain Drain**
- **Chapter 3: Consequences of Youth Brain Drain**
- **Chapter 4: Policy Implications and Interventions**
- **Chapter 5: Conclusion and Future Research**

Aim and methodology

Objective:

- Provide a nuanced understanding for the youth sector regarding:
 - Scope, causes, and effects of youth brain drain
 - Current and potential policy solutions for youth policy and youth work



1. Major Causes and Consequences

How does youth brain drain impacts political, demographic, economic, social, and cultural spheres?

2. Scope and Effects

What are the extent and impact of youth brain drain in the target regions?

3. Role of the Youth Sector

How can the youth sector help prevent and reduce negative impacts?

What additional measures are needed?



Expert Interview Questions

1

Scope and Significance

How significant is youth brain drain in your country, region, or area?

2

Causes of Brain Drain

What are the main drivers for youth brain drain?

3

Consequences

What are the impacts on political, demographic, and social spheres?

4

Lessons and Best Practices

What are the practices or lessons learned to be replicated elsewhere?

5

Future Research

What areas need further investigation?

6

Youth Sector Role

How can the youth sector help mitigate negative impacts and promote positive mobility outcomes?

7

Effects on Youth Sector

How does brain drain impact youth NGOs, youth involvement, and local networking?





Common causes

3. ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF YOUTH BRAIN DRAIN WITHIN THE WESTERN BALKANS, THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AND TÜRKIYE

3.1. Challenges in using education, skill-sector mismatches and lack of job satisfaction

3.2. Perceived lack of future opportunities, trust issues and a sense of insecurity

3.3. Geopolitical concerns

3.4. Normalisation of emigration in youth discourse and life projects

3.5. Rising social conservatism

Common consequences?

4. CONSEQUENCES OF YOUTH BRAIN DRAIN WITHIN THE WESTERN BALKANS, THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AND TÜRKİYE

4.1. Ageing society and social imbalance

4.2. Loss of human capital and labour market imbalance

4.3. Resentful youth

4.4. Weakened youth sector



Departures



What can the youth sector do?

5. INTERVENTIONS ON YOUTH BRAIN DRAIN: NEEDS AND POSSIBLE POLICY RESPONSES

Need 1 – Strengthening trust, the social ties of young people and their sense of belonging

Need 2 – Aligning policies and strategies

Need 3 – Increasing non-formal education opportunities

Need 4 – Strengthening cross-sectoral and holistic approaches to combating brain drain

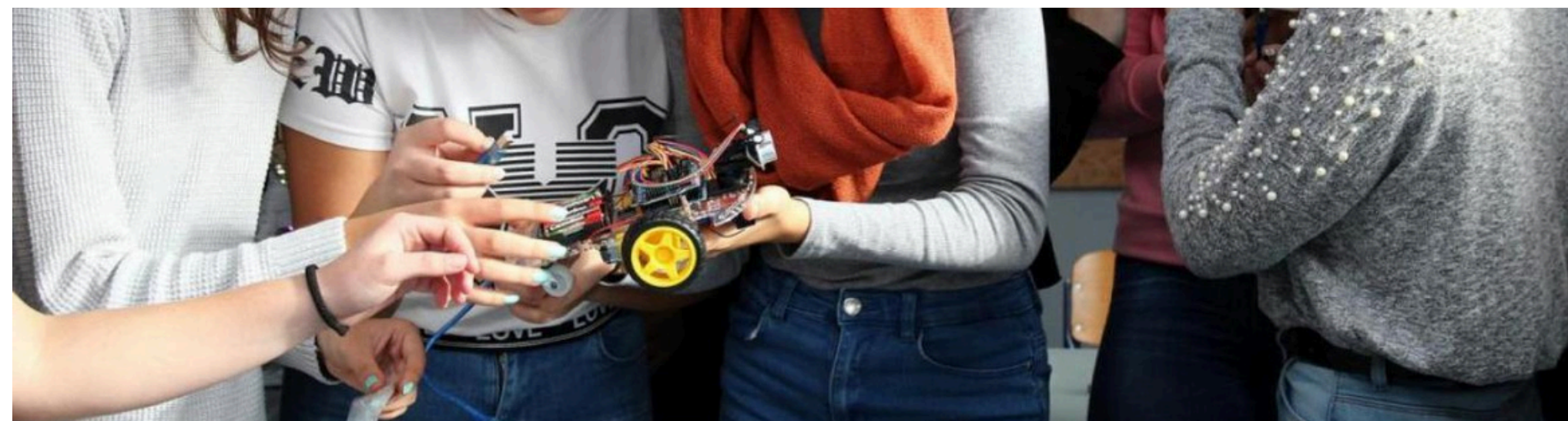
Need 5 – Addressing the fragility of the youth sector

Need 6 – Addressing lack of spaces and infrastructure

Areas of intervention

	Areas of intervention	How?
2	Job creation and economic opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Collaborating with governments and businesses to foster job creation ▶ Developing initiatives or policies to drive job growth ▶ Designing high school and university education programmes aligned with the job market and economic demands ▶ Facilitating mobility in vocational education and training ▶ Acknowledging academic and professional qualifications obtained internationally
3	Cultural and social engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Creating opportunities for cultural exchange and community engagement ▶ Maintaining cultural and social ties ▶ Increasing regional mobility schemes and fostering exchange between young people
4	Policy advocacy and reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Advocating for policy changes and reforms that support youth development ▶ Keeping track of young people who leave the home country and then return home ▶ Creating a database of young people studying and working abroad ▶ Involving young people and youth NGOs in drafting policies fostering brain circulation ▶ Establishing co-operation platforms for young people from the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership and Türkiye to exchange experiences

5	Entrepreneurship and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Supporting entrepreneurial ventures ▶ Providing mentorship ▶ Creating start-up ecosystems ▶ Investing in digital transformation in the Western Balkans, the Eastern Partnership and Türkiye ▶ Increasing connectivity between the EU and studied geographies, as well as within the regions
6	Mental health and well-being	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Supporting counselling services and mental health awareness campaigns ▶ Bringing down air pollution to EU average
7	Digital connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Facilitating remote work opportunities and digital skill development





Thank You!

(Don't forget to grab the copy of our study
from the desk to your left.)