



HALF WAY THERE

THE YOUTH GAP IN UKRAINE, GEORGIA
AND MOLDOVA

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Introduction

There is a very important saying that captures perfectly the status of young people, their problems and interests and how policy making is dealing with them. It goes something like this: *what you don't count – doesn't count*, that is what you do not measure you cannot address adequately through effective policy making.

The aim behind the effort to construct a Youth Index for Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova is to

fill in this gap, to make policy makers more accountable towards youth perspectives so youth issues will be the job of every line ministry within the Government. At the same time, the Youth Index is going to be will also provide Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representing youth interest with an effective advocacy tool and their arguments are based in sound arguments and hopefully more convincing.

Methodology

The main need for the Youth Index is the idea that public policy should be better targeted at youth because *youth situation is different from adult situation*. By different we mean usually worse of as compared to adults. The index is needed to capture this difference, show and measure the youth disadvantage. The question is how best to capture and measure disadvantage and what type of Index will be necessary for this?

Having examined the experience of other Youth Indexes two main approaches were chose. The first one is based on gaps – youth outcomes are compared to adult outcomes. The bigger the gaps the more they reflect youth disadvantage and therefore policy bias towards adult population.

All of these aspects determine the use of specific data analysis tools. In the case of Youth Index, the recommended approach was to use the simplest calculations and aggregations methods since: (I) the underlying quest is to compare the outcomes

of youth population (on a timeline series in the case of Impact Indicator) with the outcomes of adult population at the national level, (II) each calculations is done in rates among each population that is in all calculations we compare apples to apples so there is no specific need to normalize data, (III) Youth Index is developed at the national level so there is no need to account for potential missing data or national specific adjustments, (IV) lastly the simple formula and data treatment makes for a more transparent Index and one that can be easier understood.

(I) For each indicator data will be converted to rates – that means that each outcome for youth will be related to the reference youth population. For example there were in 2014 election 61 198 young people (18-21) voted. This will be converted in to a youth ratio – **27,96%** since there are 218 868 youth of that age in Moldova. The same calculations will be done for adult population – **63,40%**.

$$\text{Youthrate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Youthoutcome}}{\text{Youthreferencepopulation}}$$

$$\text{Adultrate (\%)} = \frac{\text{Adultoutcome}}{\text{Adultreferencepopulation}}$$

(II) Youth Gaps are created by comparing the rates – it there is equality between youth rates and adult population rates the dividing them would result in 1 – being the equality benchmark. The closer gap is to zero the more

inequality there is between youth and adult population. Using the example with voting gap **27,96%** (youth voter's rate) is divided to **63,40%** (adult participation rate) results in a voter's gap of **0,44**.

$$\text{Youth gap} = \frac{\text{Youth Rate}}{\text{Adult Rate}}$$

(III) Domain gaps are calculated – by averaging sub domain gaps. As per our example we calculate an average for all sub domain gaps AVERAGE (Voter’s gap+ Representation gap in Parliament gap+ Representation gap in local councils gap + Participation in the community decision-making gap)
= **Participation Sub Index = AVERAGE (0,44+0,17+0,14+0,53) = 0,32**

$$\text{Sub domain Index} = \bar{X}(n) (\text{Youth gap1} + \text{Youth gap2} + \text{Youth gap}(n))$$

\bar{X} = average

n – number of youth gaps within sub domain

(IV) Sub indexes are aggregated – by averaging them. For Youth Gap Index is the average of five domains: participation, employment, health, entrepreneurship, risky behavior and violence.

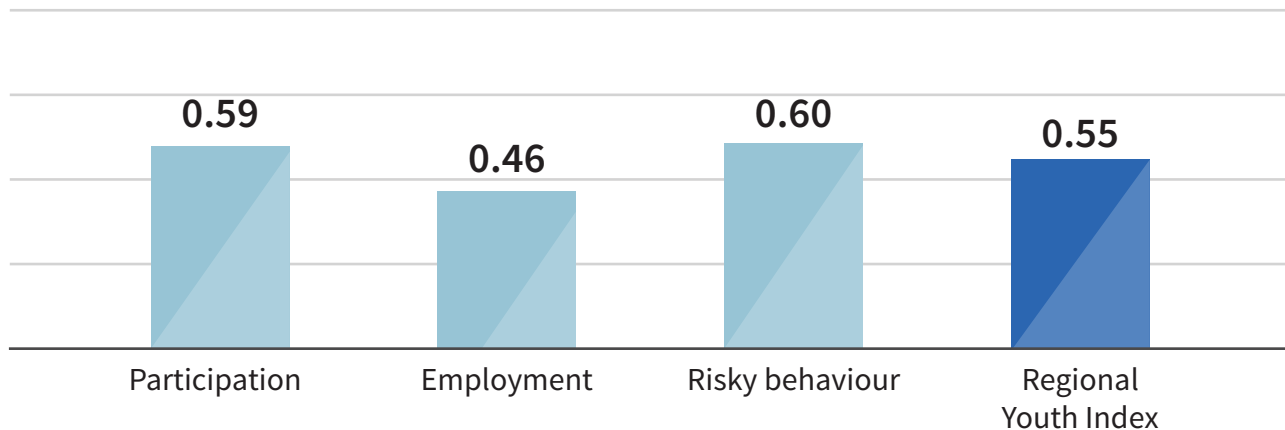
$$\text{Youth Gap Index} = \bar{Y}(n) (\text{Sub domain Index 1} + \text{Sub domain Index 2} + \text{Sub domain Index } (n))$$

\bar{Y} = average

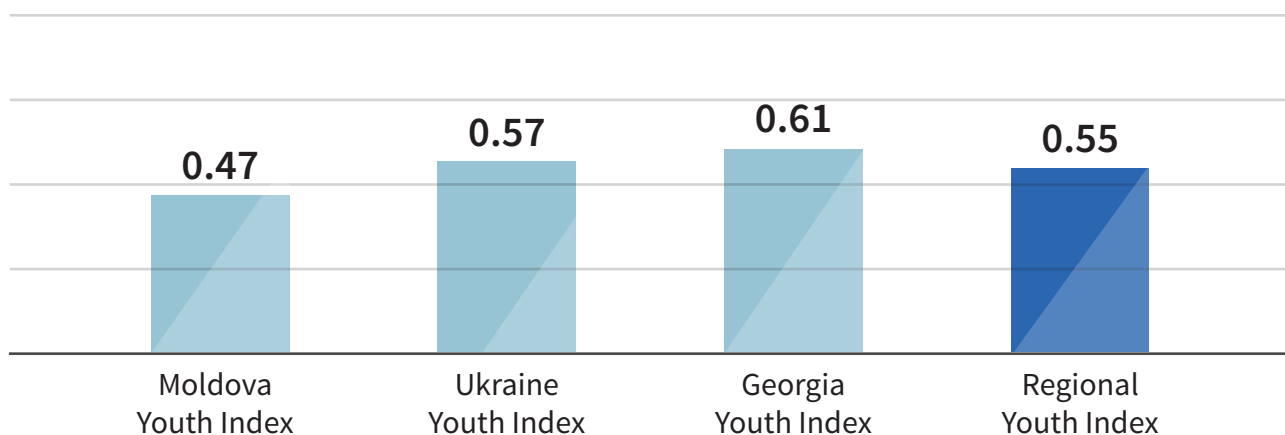
n – number of Sub domain Indexes

Results

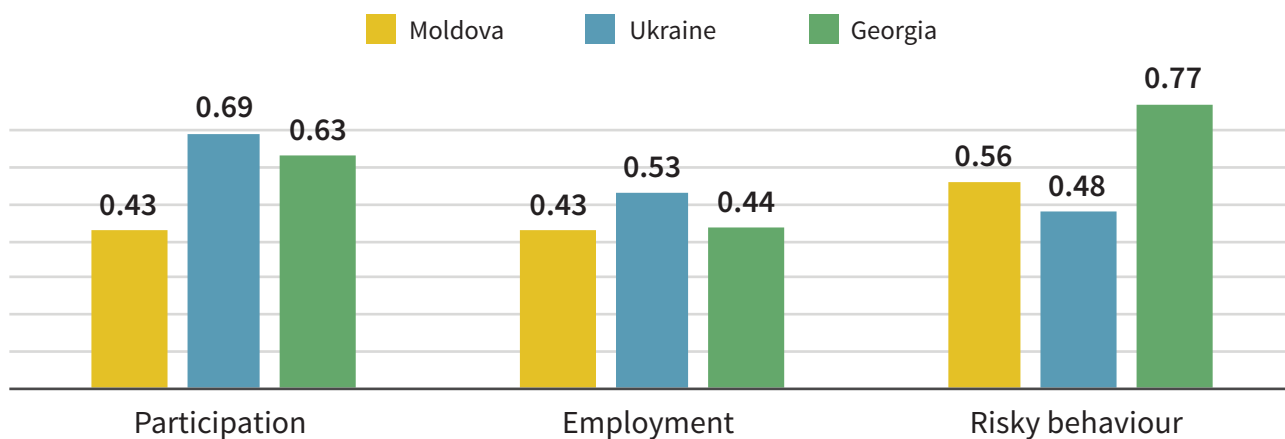
Youth index shows significant gaps in the three domains covered.



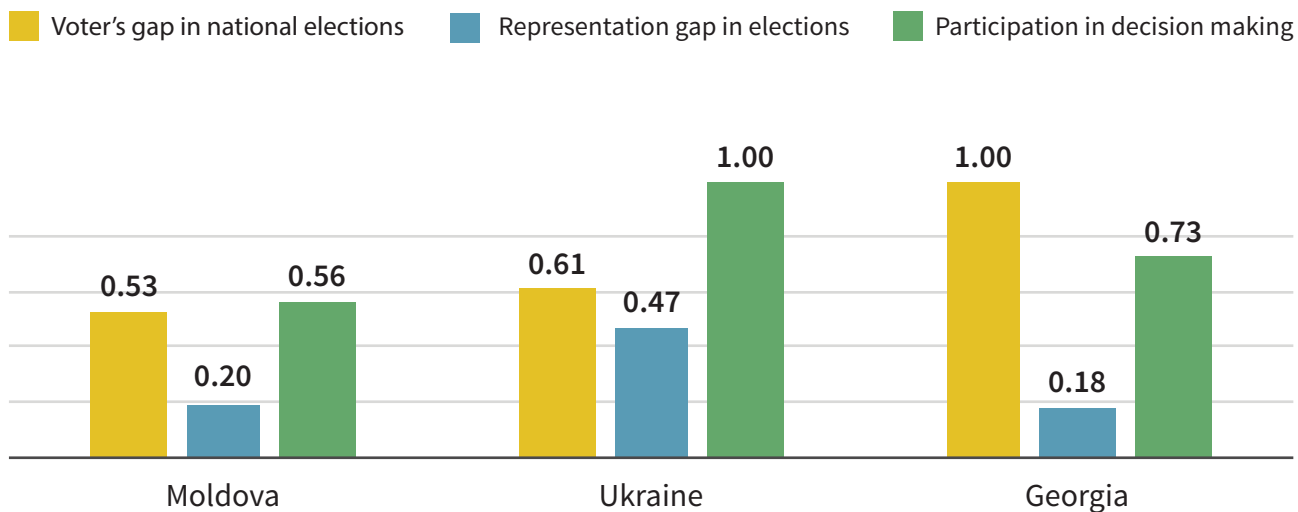
Georgia fares better and Moldova is below the average.



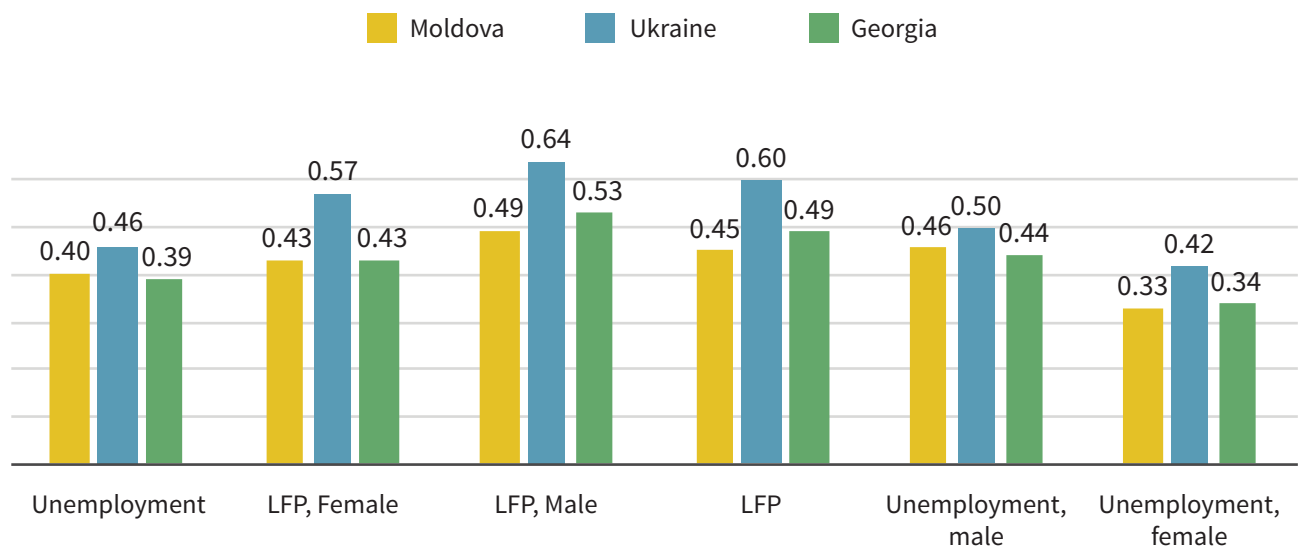
There are relevant differences among countries in terms of subsectors.



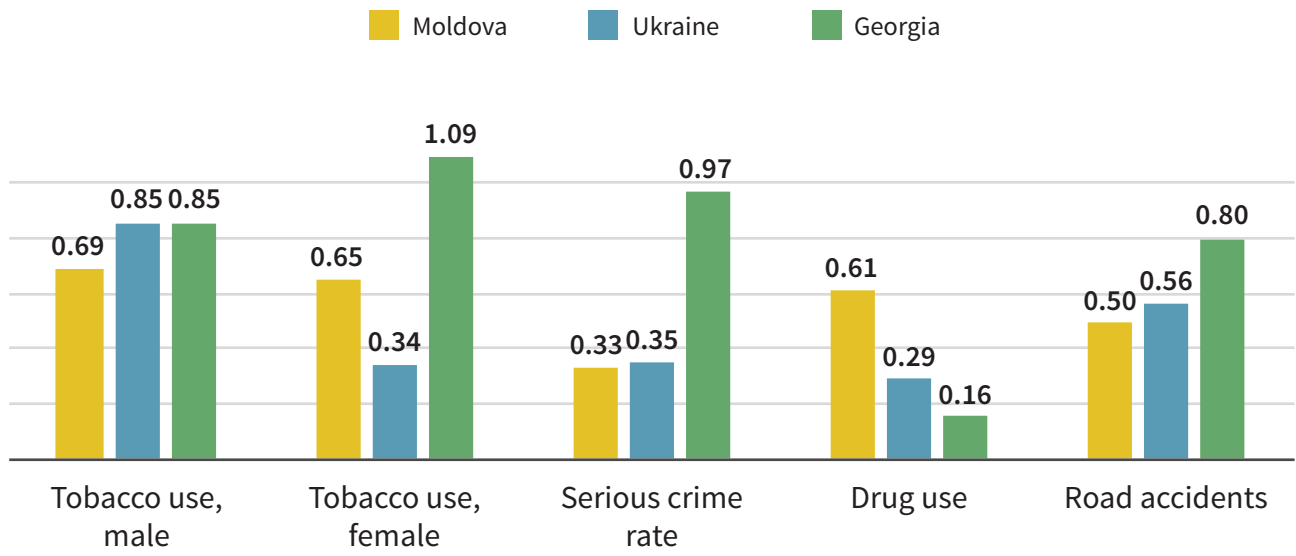
Participation



Employment



Risky behaviour



PARTICIPATION

Indicators	Moldova			Ukraine			Georgia			Average	Definitions
	Youth	Total	Gap	Youth	Total	Gap	Youth	Total	Gap		
Voter's gap in national elections	34.43	65.57	0.53	35.00	57.47	0.61	61.30	61.30	1.00	0.71	Persons above 18 who voted in the last elections and persons aged 18-29 participation as voters in the last national elections.
Representation gap in elections	16.41	83.41	0.20	32.00	68.00	0.47	3.30	18.60	0.18	0.28	Persons elected to Parliament. Persons aged 18-30 elected to Parliament.
Participation in decision making	5.00	8.90	0.56	1.00	1.00	1.00	10.90	15.00	0.73	0.76	Participation rate in the decision making process at the local level.
Average			0.43			0.69			0.63	0.59	

EMPLOYMENT

Indicators	Moldova			Ukraine			Georgia			Average	Definitions
	Youth	Total	Gap	Youth	Total	Gap	Youth	Total	Gap		
Unemployment	8.5	3.4	0.40	16.9	7.7	0.46	34,1	13,4	0,39	0,42	Unemployment, youth total (% of total labor force ages 15-24). Unemployment, total (% of total labor force), Data for 2014, Source World Bank
LFP, Female	19	44	0.43	36	63	0.57	26	61	0.43	0.48	Labor Force Participation rate for ages 15-24, female %; Labor force participation rate, female as % of female population ages 15-64, Data for 2014 source World Bank
LFP, Male	24	49	0.49	47	74	0.64	42	79	0.53	0.55	Labor force Participation rate for ages 15-24, male %; Labor force participation rate, male as % of female population ages 15-64, Data for 2014 source World Bank
LFP	21	46.8	0.45	41	67.9	0.60	34	69.8	0.49	0.51	Labor force participation rate for ages 15-24, total %; Labor force participation rate, total, % population ages 15-64, Data for 2014, Source World Bank
Unemployment, male	9.1	4.2	0.46	17.9	8.9	0.50	33.2	14.5	0.44	0.47	Unemployment, youth male (% of male labor force ages 15-24). Unemployment, Male (% of male labor force), Data for 2014, Source World Bank
Unemployment, female	7.8	2.6	0.33	15.5	6.5	0.42	35.7	12.3	0.34	0.37	Unemployment, youth female (% of female labor force ages 15-24). Unemployment, female (% of female labor force), Data for 2014, Source World Bank
Average			0.43			0.53			0.44	0.46	

RISKY BEHAVIOUR

Indicators	Moldova			Ukraine			Georgia			Average	Definitions
	Youth	Total	Gap	Youth	Total	Gap	Youth	Total	Gap		
Tobacco use, male	62.6	43	0.69	61.9	52.5	0.85	62.8	53.3	0.85	0.42	% of male youth ages 18-29 who are current smokers, % of male smokers in all age groups, Prevalence of Smoking in 8 countries of the former Soviet Union 2004
Tobacco use, female	6	3.9	0.65	32.9	11.1	0.34	5.8	6.3	1.09	0.69	% of female youth ages 18-29 who are current smokers, % of female smokers in all age groups, Prevalence of Smoking in 8 countries of the former Soviet Union 2004
Serious crime rate	0.03	0.01	0.33	0.167	0.059	0.35	0.6861	0.6644	0.97	0.55	Serious crimes (murder, rape, corporal injury) perpetrated by youth and adult population
Drug use	0.49	0.3	0.61	75.1	21.9	0.29	0.2579	0.0418	0.16	0.36	Usage rate of youth and adult populations as defined by thematic survey.
Road accidents	0.02	0.01	0.50	0.016	0.009	0.56	0.1956	0.1562	0.80	0.62	Rate of accidents with the involvement of youth and adult population.
Average			0.56			0.48			0.77	0.60	