

The transformation of the Bulgarian labour market from state socialism to market capitalism has had a strong impact on the school-to-work transition of young adults. Young people's passages from education to employment have become uncertain. Today, many graduates risk not gaining ground in the labour market and facing social exclusion in Bulgaria. In particular, little is known how regional labour and educational opportunities impact social, ethnic and gender disparities in school-to-work transitions.

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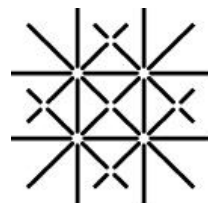


BULGARIAN-SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME
БЪЛГАРО-ШВЕЙЦАРСКА ПРОГРАМА ЗА СЪТРУДНИЧЕСТВО



BULGARIAN
ACADEMY
of SCIENCES
—1869—

Institute for the Study of Societies and Knowledge



University
of Basel

School-to-work transitions in Bulgaria

The School-to-Work Transitions in Bulgaria study and the Bulgarian School Leaver survey are aimed at better understanding

- school-to-work transition in contemporary Bulgaria
- the role of social inequalities in those transitions
- and the mechanisms behind educational and employment (un)success.

The Bulgarian School Leaver Survey

We developed and implemented a nationally representative school-leaver survey of 2100 Bulgarians aged 15-34. The questionnaire included over 170 questions providing detailed information on the respondents' educational background and their employment situation. Information was gathered through face-to-face interviews at respondents' homes.

The field work for the survey occurred from August 2013 to October 2014, including the preparatory phase, pilot survey, adjustment of questionnaire and methodology, and two phases of the main survey data collection starting January 26, 2014 through October 12, 2014.

The survey target group of school leavers was defined as those who were residents of Bulgaria; were 15 to 34 years old; and had completed or stopped their education for the first time and for at least one year in the last 5 years.

A total of three samples were drawn: a main sample representative at national level (N=1500); a booster sample representative for the North-West region of Bulgaria (N=300); and a booster sample representative for the South-West region (N=300). A two-stage cluster sample structured by regional planning units (NUTS2) and size of the settlement was employed both for the main and for the booster samples. We achieved a response rate of 81 percent.

Questionnaire and Data

The Survey Questionnaire of 170 questions includes the following sections:

- ✓ Educational career before leaving formal education (detailed data on primary through tertiary education, including degree type, grades, location, vocationality, reasons for dropout, etc.)
- ✓ Employment experiences before leaving formal education
- ✓ Education and training after leaving formal education
- ✓ Detailed calendar of activities after leaving formal education (employment statuses, unemployment, return to education, maternity leave, working abroad, etc.) listed in chronological order
- ✓ Detailed overview of first employment experience after leaving education
- ✓ Current labour market situation
- ✓ Incomes and earnings
- ✓ Socio-demographic characteristics

The complete questionnaire is available on our website in English and Bulgarian:
<http://www.schooltowork.bg/>

Access to the Bulgarian School Leaver Survey Data can be obtained by contacting the project team (see Contacts).

Contacts

For further information about the School-to-Work Project or the Bulgarian School Leaver Survey Data please visit our website

<http://www.schooltowork.bg/>

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