

EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION

Skills for the labour market: current situation and the way forward

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Regional Online Meeting - European Pillar of Social Rights: challenges and opportunities for the Western Balkan economies, 19 November 2020

European Pillar of Social Rights – the place of education, training and upward career development

Quality and inclusive education, training and life-long learning (eg Upskilling Pathways)

Gender equal treatment and opportunities in employment and career progression

Equal treatment and opportunities regarding employment, social protection, education for under-represented groups

Timely and tailor-made assistance to improve employment or self-employment prospects

Continued education, apprenticeship, traineeship or a job offer for young people within 4 months of unemployment or leaving education (i.e. Youth Guarantee)

Personalised and consistent support for unemployed, incl. right of long-term unemployed to individual assessment within 18 months of unemployment

Western Balkans: EPSR and main skills related challenges

Inclusive and quality education. Increasing participation and retention rates in upper secondary education, and university. However, insufficient relevance of skills may lead to lost opportunities and lengthy and mismatched integration in the labour market;

Limited participation in lifelong learning. Problematic access, coverage and quality/relevance LLL programmes do not outreach all people in need, in particular people with low education attainment, unemployed and other vulnerable groups.

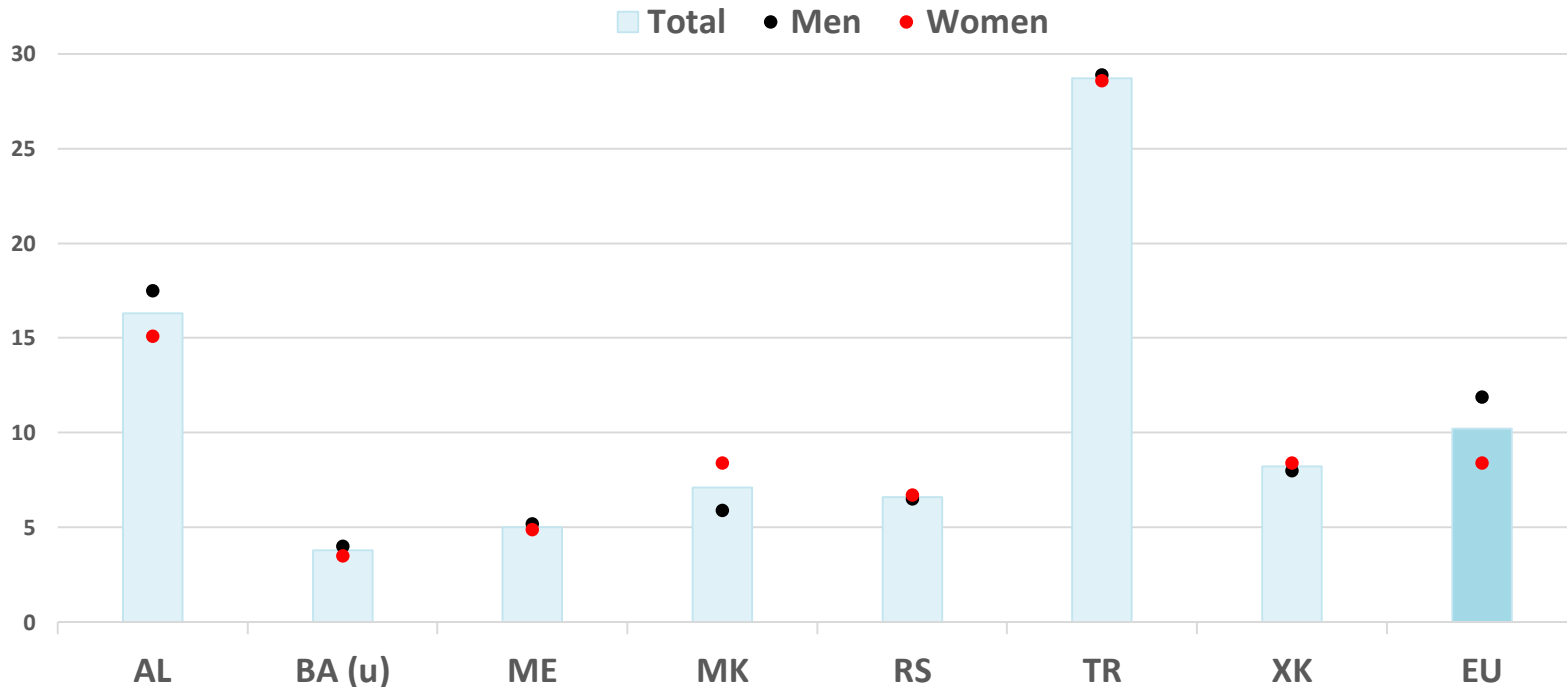
Insufficient and under-resourced active labour market programmes, services to support transitions from school, unemployment or inactivity to employment.

New forms of work emerging, new professions as well as ‘virtual labour mobility’ requesting a reflection on regulations, rights, skills and international cooperation.

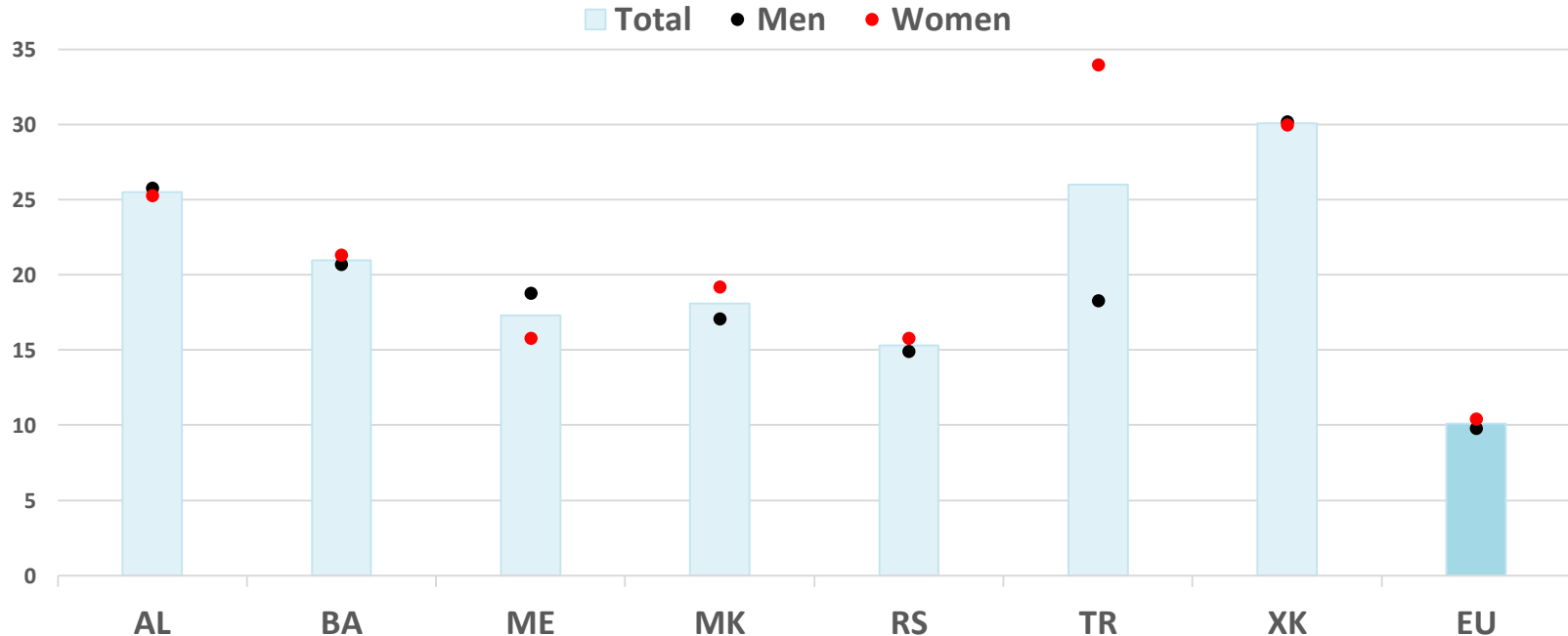


ETF Report *Unlocking youth potential in South Eastern Europe and Turkey: Skills development for labour market and social inclusion*, 2020; <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/unlocking-youth-potential-south-eastern-europe-and-turkey>

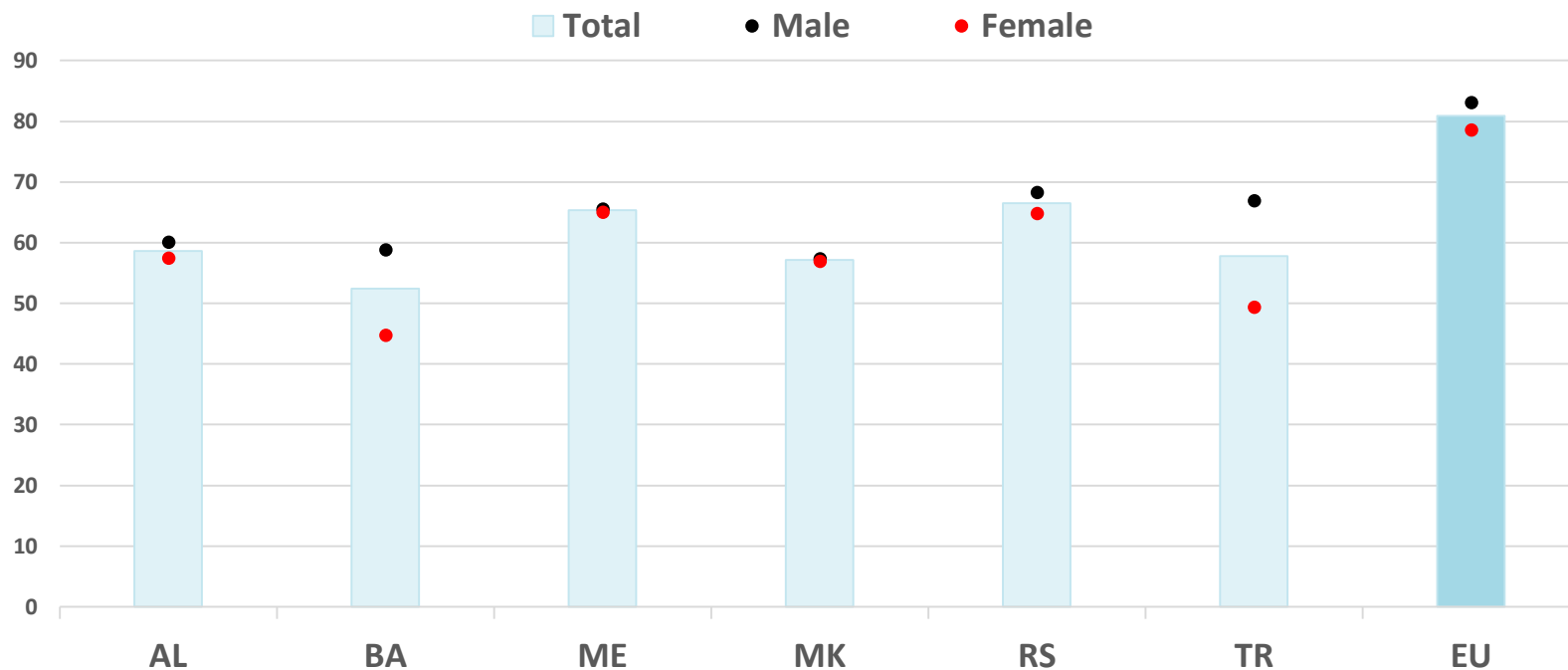
Percentage of early school leavers (aged 18–24), 2019



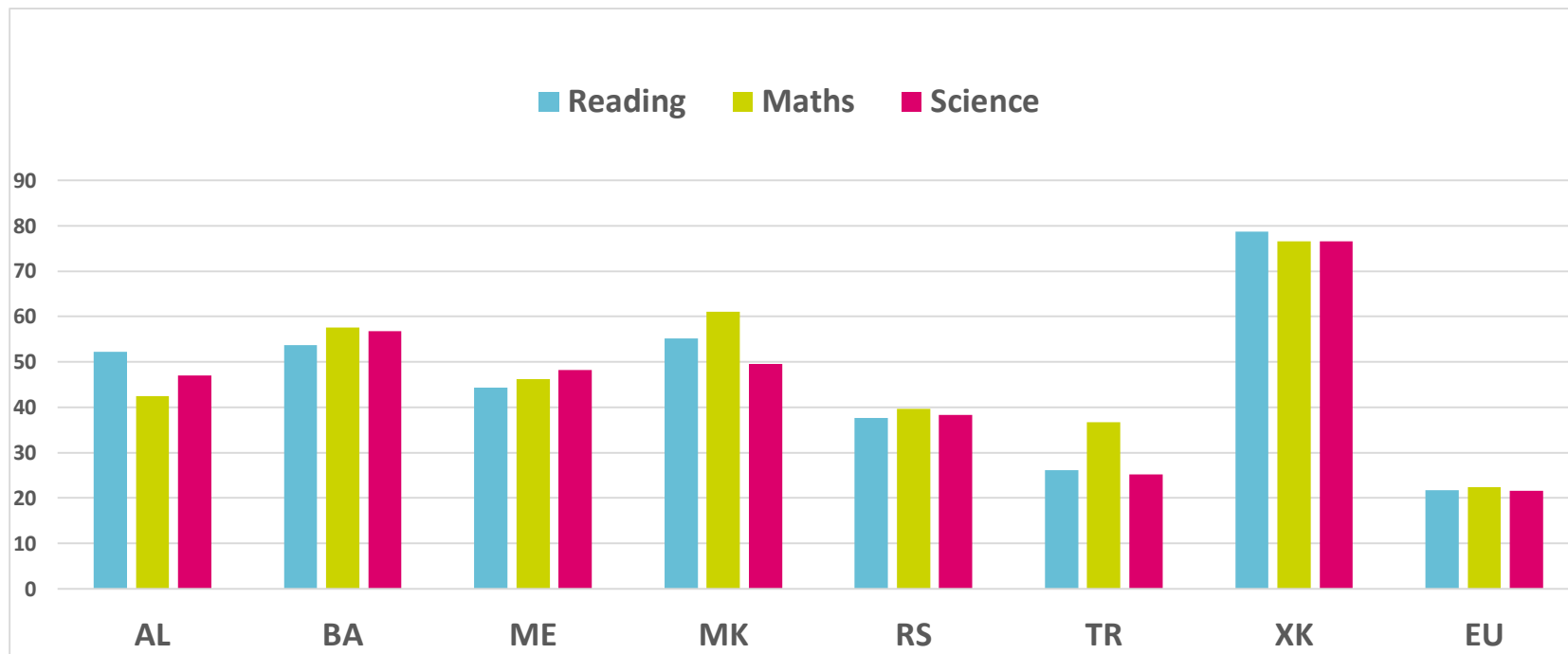
Share of young people (aged 15–24) not in employment, education or training, 2019



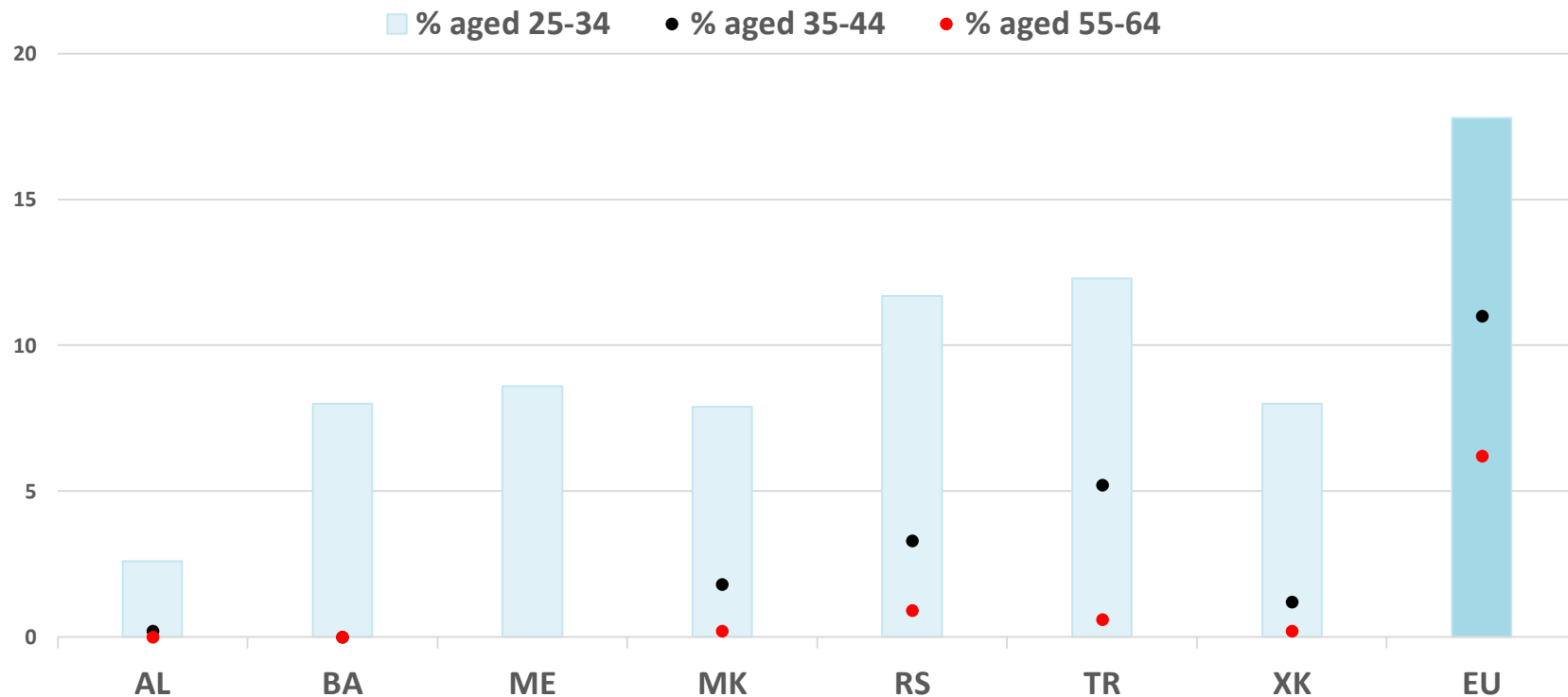
Employment rate of recent graduates (% of 20–34 year-olds with ISCED 3–8 attainment), 2019



Underachievement in reading, mathematics and science (% of 15-year-olds), 2018



Participation in lifelong learning, 2019



Impact of COVID-19: risk and opportunity factors

Augmented unemployment and inactivity

Increased poverty, inequalities, polarization

Interrupted education, drop out risks, less practical learning

Increased mismatches due to labour demand shifts

Emerging sectors and digitalization

New forms of work arising

Strengthening public and private sector cooperation; civil society contribution

Shape the education of tomorrow

The role of skills in future policy choices

Priorities to guide the recovery efforts and prepare for a different socio-economic paradigm, in line with the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights:

- Developing or more decisive implementation of national strategies to **foster digital transition with clear skills development components**;
- **Adapting education and training systems** to the new needs of digital economies and societies, and **opening them to all citizens of all ages**;
- Innovative partnerships and balanced regulatory models for supporting **sustainable "new forms of work"**;
- Social protection with universal coverage, and **reducing inequalities and vulnerabilities**;
- Strategic investment in digital transformation and combating climate change

ETF, Mapping COVID-19: the socio-economic impact. The future of skills in the EU Neighbourhood, 2020

https://www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2020-07/mapping_covid_030720_socio_economic.pdf

Skills dimension of crisis management and recovery agenda

- **Incentivise skills development programs for all in need of upskilling or reskilling**
- **Invest in digital services and training of public services staff**
- **Address areas of vulnerability** with accurate information to shape targeted policies
- **Support education and training, and transition to work for the COVID- 19 generation**
 - millions of students experience limited access to practical training and apprenticeships; companies have less resources to invest in young people; upskilling and efficient measures to help transition into employment are a must
- **Don't give up on innovation** - financial packages and health protection measures come with a large price tag. This may limit funding availability for investments, human capital development, innovation and other development stimuli

ETF, Mapping COVID-19: the socio-economic impact. The future of skills in the EU Neighbourhood, 2020

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THANK YOU