



SCHOOL

EMPLOYMENT

ADULT MARRIAGE/
HEALTHY CHILDREN

SECURITY
OF PLACE

WORK-LIFE
BALANCE

LIFELONG
LEARNING

WEALTH/CHILD
INVESTMENT

SECURE
OLD-AGE

DEMOGRAPHIC
DIVIDEND

Education

“In order for my dreams to become true, there should be good education at schools and many books published in the world”

Sesili, 10, is from Tbilisi, Georgia.

She attends one of the best schools in the country. Sesili is a bright, responsible, joyful and friendly girl and a talented painter. She is interested in arts and literature. Sesili loves her life and as she says, she will do her best to keep it as beautiful as it is. The most important thing for her is to be sincere and never lie.

Photo: UNFPA/Dina Oganova

10

QR CODE

CHILD
MARRIAGE

TEENAGE
PREGNANCY

REPEAT
PREGNANCIES

CHILD ILLNESS
& DEATH

MATERNAL
MORBIDITY

INFORMAL
WORK

INSECURITY &
DISPLACEMENT

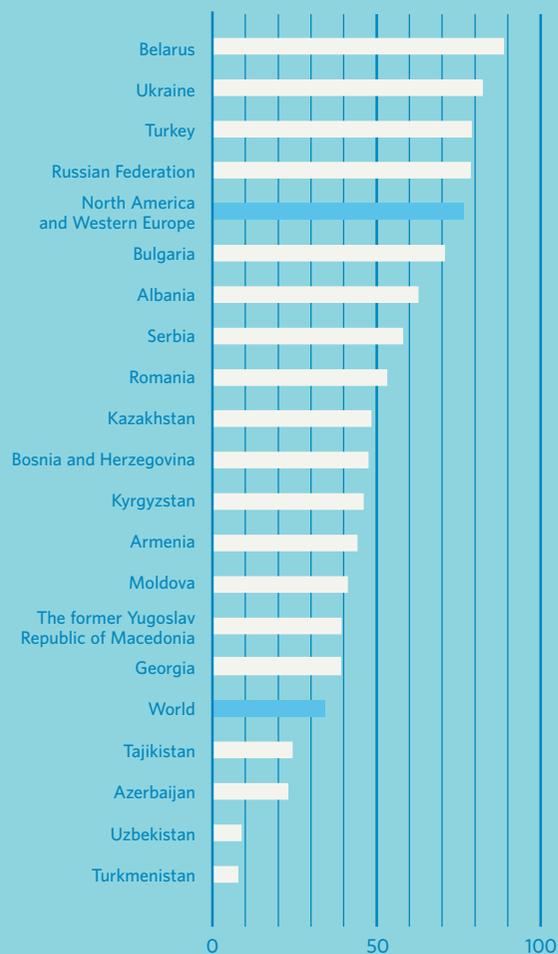
INSECURE
OLD-AGE

MISSED
DEMOGRAPHIC
DIVIDEND



Investing in quality education contributes to building human capital.

ENROLMENT IN TERTIARY EDUCATION, %



Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Gross enrolment ratio, both sexes, retrieved 15 August 2016.

→ The situation

Most 10-year-old girls and boys are in school in this region, as they are entering secondary education where enrolment ratios are generally over 90%.¹ The outlook is good for higher education, too. Although enrolment ratios in tertiary education vary widely in the region (see graph), in most countries around 40% or more of high school students continue their education. Young women have a clear advantage in tertiary education: there are more female than male students in all but five of the region's 19 countries.



OR MORE OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION IN MOST COUNTRIES

→ Leaving no-one behind

Young Roma face multiple barriers in accessing education, and gaps in educational attainment between Roma and non-Roma remain huge. More than 30% of young Roma were found to be without even primary education in some countries in the region, and nowhere did the share of young Roma with a university degree exceed 1%.² The price tag for Roma exclusion from education is high: the loss in productivity amounts to up to 3.7% of GDP in Bulgaria, for example, not counting fiscal losses in terms of lower tax incomes and higher social security expenditures.³



¹ With some exceptions in Southeastern Europe and Central Asia. Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics.

² Roma Education in Comparative Perspective. Analysis of the UNDP/World Bank/EC Regional Roma Survey 2011. Roma Inclusion Working Papers, United Nations Development Programme, 2012.

→ Why is it important?

Investing in affordable quality education is key for ensuring that adolescents and young people can fulfil their potential. It also contributes to building a society's human capital. This is particularly important in countries preparing for the effects of low fertility and population ageing.



→ What needs to be done?

By further improving educational attainment levels and the quality of education, countries in the region can expect significant economic returns of up to 1.7% of annual per capita GDP growth.⁴ Investments must go beyond formal schooling, as early childhood experiences greatly affect social outcomes. This includes policies allowing parents to balance work and family.



³ Economic Costs of Roma Exclusion, The World Bank, April 2010.

⁴ Investing in Young People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Issue Brief 2, 2014.