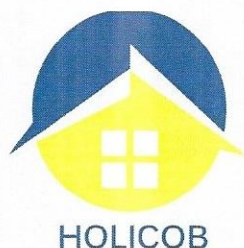




Report on youth living conditions and housing

Stockholm/Western Balkan/Brussels
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HOLICOB



Hyresgäst-
föreningen

FREJA

FORUM 2017

CONTENT

Introduction	2
Background	3
Country Results	4
Albania	4
Bosnia-Hercegovina	6
Kosovo	8
Macedonia	9
Serbia	10
Sweden	11
Results and comments	12
Summary	13
Diagrame of survey	14

Introduction

Everyone needs a home. A place to go when the day is over. It is in our homes we get our strength back, eat, clean, grow up, love, pet the cat och make great plans for the future. Life is hard living without a home.

A good home is more than four walls and a roof. For a house or an apartment to be a home it takes fundamental standard and the feeling of safety.

Around Europe today, in many places there's a shortfall of habitations. Not at least young people have difficulties finding a home. The same way that young people are exposed in the working field, they struggle on the housing market.

Statistics from Eurostat shows that young people are an especially exposed group in the housing markets all over Europe. They have more difficulties entering the housing market and they live in worse housings. Close to 8% of our young people lives in a residence that doesn't have windows, bathrooms, toilets or proper roof.

One out of four young people in the EU lives in overcrowded households. The situation within EU is worst for young people in Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Croatia, Slovenia, Latvia and Greece. In these countries, more than half of the young population lives in overcrowded households.

Naturally, it differs from one member state to another but repetitive for all countries is that young people is a more exposed group than the population in general. Young people are poorer and lives under worse conditions.

To have a home is a human right. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights it says that each and every one have the right to an adequate standard of living, including food, clothes and a habitation. In the same way, the Convention on the Rights of the Child says that every child has the right to adequate nutrition, housing and medical services, clothes, clean water and a habitation. Despite Europe being one of the richest parts of the world, we still have a lot of work to do.

As the housing issue is a social challenge in Europe is it also a very profitable sector. The property industry still attracts more and more capital. More people wants to make money in property. More people wants to build and own properties. Despite being profitable, the market does not succeed to solve the issue.

The housing issue is a political question. The housing situation and the future for our young people is a political question. The question how to raise the standard of living for our young people is political.

A good home for everyone is one of our most important welfare issues and also vital for a socially sustainable development in Europe.

Survey - Background

The report is based on a longterm cooperation between organisations in Western Balkan and the Swedish Union of tenants

The network Freja Forum based on voluntary work of many grassroots organisations in Western Balkans and Turkey has been cooperating since 1990s. The work has been based on women and youth from various non-profit organisations coming together to share knowledge and ideas about democracy, equality and human rights.

Problem of poor living conditions is common problem for all Balkan countries, such as Bosnia- Hercegovina, Serbia, Kosovo, Macedonia and Albania.

Project HOLICOB started 2015 in Bosnia-Hercegovina. The project is addressing students and young people in terms of increasing their involvement in discussing and actively working in resolving problems of poor living standards in dorms, problems of financing new homes, legislation on leasing apartments and other identified problems regarding housing and living conditions. CSO in Western Balkan is now starting regional cooperation with the experience from HOLICOB project as a start.

There is a need for capacity building of CSOs that are active in human rights for women and youth. More knowledge concerning living and housing conditions for youth are needed. Young people must be an active part when their living conditions are discussed. There is a need to increase and intensify the role of young people in the process for democracy.

CSOs representing young people, see the list below, decided to ask a number of youth in a questionnaire to learn more about their living conditions. For most of the countries it was the first time young people were asked about their living conditions..

Albania: Gender Alliance for Development Centre

Bosnia - Hercegovina: Center for Support Organisations

Kosovo: D4D - Democracy for Development

Macedonia: Youth center for equal opportunities Skopje

Serbia: Centar za društvenu ravnotežu

Sweden: Swedish Union of Tenants region Aros- Gävle, Sweden

The target group for the survey: 100 persons (50 men and 50 women) from each country

Selection criteria for the survey:

- Age between 20-29 years old
- Mix of unemployed, students and employed
- Mix of young people living in capital city, city, village and countryside

Country Results

ALBANIA

Albania is a small European country with a population of 2.886.000 people¹. Sex ratio of the population is 51% for males and 49% females. Meanwhile 57.2% of the population lives in urban areas and 42.8 % in the rural areas². The mean age of population for 2015 was 37.2 years (INSTAT, 2015). For males, mean age is 36.4 years, while for females it is 37.9 years³. Albania is a middle-income country⁴. In recent years Albania has maintained positive growth rates, despite the ongoing economic crisis. Significant progress, propelled by reforms, has created conditions for a rebound in business confidence and domestic demand, including early signs of increased investment and an export-led recovery⁵. Maintaining the reform momentum and implementation is critical for Albania's continued economic growth and its aspirations for European Union (EU) integration.

The situation of young people in Albania

Compared to other European countries, Albania remains a young country on average, with 25% of the population belonging to 15-29 years age group⁶. From these group 52 % are males and 48 % are females. Youth as the largest proportion of the Albanian society is subject to the highest unemployment levels when compared to other age groups. The unemployment level for the group 15-29 years old is 28.9 %⁷. Moreover, data from the census of 2011 show that 51% of young people, who are not attending education, have only 8 or 9 school classes as their highest level of completed education (Figure 5). The rest have completed the secondary school (30%) and the university (about 15%). In 2012, the participation rate in the workforce was 65.5 % (74.3% for men and 56.6 % for women). Participation in working forces among young people aged 15 to 24 years declined from 44.8% in 2011 to 37.4 % in 2012. The decline in the employment rate has been particularly severe for young women. These figures shows a clear loss of human resources for the Albanian economy.

In Albania it has been never organized a research on the working and living conditions of young people.

Comments about the results of survey in Albania

A group of 100 young people out of them 68 % women and 32 % men were interviewed during the period march – April 2017 about their housing issues. 37 % of the interviewed people belongs to 20-21 years old. 9 % belongs to 28-29 years old. 72 % of the interviewers lives in Tirana the Capital City of Albania. Over 62 % lives in an apartment, 5 % lives in dorms, 10 % lives in a room, while 23 % lives in a house.

¹ INSTAT (2016). Women and Men in Albania

² Idem

³ Idem

⁴ <http://www.worldbank.org/en/country/albania>

⁵ Idem

⁶ INSTAT (2016)

⁷ INSTAT (2016)

Most of them 43 % has 10-20 m² home surface, 18 % lives in less than 10 m² and the others lives in homes with surfaces more than 20m².

89 % has showers in their houses, but 11 % does not have showers. 21 % of interviewers lives alone versus 24 that lives with their parents. Interesting was the fact that 19 % lives with their own family. 85 % of the interviewers were tenants. 19 % were not satisfied with the housing conditions. These group is not satisfied for several conditions, such as: "there is not heating system so I get sick all the time and I pay too much energy; The balcony is too small, sometimes it's difficult to hang the clothes;

It's a large difference between the rent price and the living conditions; I do have a bathroom with shower but when live with other people it's not clean and it's always busy when you need it; Because I live with other people as tenant and we don't even a bathroom with shower and the house is too small". 76% would like to change the house. Questioned how they will solve the housing situation 38 % think to buy their own apartments vs 12% that think to build a house. 32 % still think to rent a house to live.

72 % of the interviewers are aware for their legal rights regarding the rented houses versus 26 % that are not aware. 63 % would like to become active regarding tenants' rights.

Bosnia -Hercegovina

B&H has a bicameral legislature and a three-member Presidency composed of a member of each major ethnic group. The central government's power is highly limited, as the country is largely decentralized and comprises two autonomous entities: the Federation of B&H and Republika Srpska, with a third region, the Brčko District, governed under local government. The Federation of B&H is itself complex and consists of 10 cantons. The country is a potential candidate for membership to the EU and has been a candidate for NATO membership since April 2010. B&H has been a member of the Council of Europe since April 2002 and a founding member of the Mediterranean Union upon its establishment in July 2008.

The situation of youth in B&H

Youth in BiH are persons between the age of 15 and 30. There are more males than females within this age population. The number of young people in BiH is 777 000 (which is 315,000 less than in 1991 when it was 1,091,775). EDUCATION - Key challenges are: poor connection between the education system with labour and employment sector and labour market; the education system is based on teaching without a practical component in education; extremely high rate of unemployment and low workforce productivity; incompatibility of education with labour market needs; delay of reforms in the education system; there is no policy of human resources development. EMPLOYMENT rate is over 60%.) HEALTH - Young people face numerous risks and the most intense are: war effects, worsened life conditions, increased abuse of psychoactive substances, alcohol and tobacco products, poor mental health (with an increased rate of suicides), poor physical health caused by not doing sport, peer violence, lack of information about sexual reproductive health, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, etc. Substantial part of the youth population has no health insurance, 10% of them. SOCIAL STATUS OF YOUTH - The total population of young people is a vulnerable group and much closer to poverty than the population of adults. 57% of young people who did not continue their education after completing primary school has the largest share of poor population. Young returnees in some parts of the country account for 10% of the poor. In addition to the young returnees, "vulnerable" categories are also young people with developmental disorders, Roma and other minorities and young single parents. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LIFE - Only 5% of young people are members of youth organization, 6% are members of political parties and 1% are members of representative bodies of youth. CULTURE, SPORT AND LEISURE - The main challenges are: legal disorder; lack of strategy or strategic framework for the development and investment in the field of culture and sport; the absence of a programmatic approach; lack of adequate institutional capacity; poor coordination and cooperation between different levels/institutions of government in BiH; financial difficulties; incompetence and lack of qualification of a part of sports staff.

Comments to the results of survey in B&H

In order to secure unquestionable reliability and provide represented sample, Censor interviewed 144 persons, age 18-30. Gender component was taken into consideration - subjective opinion of interviewer, based upon physical appearance of a person being interviewed. Distribution of the questioner forms were considered from a geographical point of view (capital, city/town, countryside), social status (student, unemployed, employed) and channelled through Employment Biros, faculties, CSOs and public places in Tuzla and Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Unexpected number of filled questioner forms compared to the initially planned (167 versus 100, i.e. 67% more). Censor yet recorded 144 verifications (automatic message printed screen of the form upon the form submission), meaning that again 23% persons more answered the questioner form, compared to the Censor statistics of the answered forms. This reflects interest of youth to be asked and to provide answers. App. 12% of the interviewed youth currently live in a village/country side, which breaks prejudices that rural people, mostly living in a family house, have housing issue solved.

Answers given to the questions on the size of the room they live in and the one that relates to a very basic need (if they have a bathroom with shower) demonstrate high living standards. 60% of the questionnaire persons live with the parents which corresponds to a global challenge. Almost the same percentage (39%) of the interviewed live either as an owner or a tenant, 18% is going to solve the housing issue by renting a property, 35% is not aware of their legal rights regarding housing but 50% would like to be active regarding tenants' rights and out of 167 submitted forms, 63 interviewers (38%) voluntarily provide his/her e-mail address, confirming they would like to have more information about housing and youth, which arguments the need for Censor to further be active in the housing and living sector.

Kosovo

The Republic of Kosovo is the newest country in the Europe; they declared their independence from Serbia on February 17th, 2008 and were recognized by over 100 countries.ⁱ Kosovo is a multi-ethnic state with a population of 1,883,018 people composed of Albanian, Bosniak, Serbian, Turk, Askhali, Egyptian, Gorani, and Romani ethnicities.ⁱⁱ The gender ratio is 1.06 male(s)/female and 42.77% of the population is under the age of 25.ⁱⁱⁱ Prishtina is the capital city of Kosovo, and the country occupies a total of 10,887 sq. km. of land.^{iv} The GDP per capita is \$3,960.^v

Kosovo has faced multiple transitions that have left it ill-equipped to address a range of public ills. As a new country, Kosovo had the opportunity to benefit from a clean-slate approach, which it failed to utilize – today Kosovo must conduct more reforms than countries that inherit centuries of bureaucracy.

Youth Situation in Kosovo

The Law on Empowerment and Participation of Youth defines youth in Kosovo as between 15-24 years old.^{vi} Men and women younger than 25 years-old represent 49%, whereas 19.1% of the youth are between 15-24 years-old – with roughly 52.4% being male and 47.6% being female.^{vii} The rate of unemployment among the youth of Kosovo is 57.7% and as a result employment is a large concern for young adults.^{viii} 54.2% of male youth are unemployed and 67.2% of female youth are unemployed.^{ix} Even youth who have acquired a university education have difficulty finding jobs. Although Kosovo is a young developing country, it has received aid from international institutions and European governments to address the youth unemployment issue through business and economic development, education, and youth issue promotion in policy debate.

As a result, many young adults have turned to Civil Society Organizations to address these problems at a local and regional level. There is a considerable number of Youth NGOs and international organizations that are acting to improve the lives of the youth in Kosovo. These organizations are actively working to both directly improve the lives of youth and to help get them involved in political life so that their voices can be heard. They offer a wide array of activities to accomplish those goals, like volunteer work, English proficiency lessons, and promoting multiethnic relationship-building.

Kosovo also has an official governmental department, the Youth Department within the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, which is responsible for the youth affairs and policy in Kosovo. The department has a multitude of tasks, such as creating clubs and programs for youth, coordinating with other governmental organizations to create policies that help youth, encourage financial support for the youth sector, create and implement a Youth Strategy and Action Plan. Currently, the Youth Department is implementing the Kosovo Strategy for Youth, which began in 2013 and is set to run through 2017.^x This Action Plan 9

focuses primarily on working with youth organizations at the local and regional levels with the overall goals of bring Kosovar youth to the same level as European youth.^{xi}

The relationship between the youth organizations and the Youth Department are generally considered to be positive. However, the Youth Department has been criticized for the lack of impact their Action Plan has had on young adults coupled with a general lack of trust with governmental institutions' ability to create change.^{xii}

Education system remains a key challenge for Kosovo. The system has been subject to continuous change during the transition that emerged in the aftermath of the war in 1999. More of the university graduates in the country do not fit the current needs of the labour market, let alone the labour market's future needs. With little focus on skills development, much of Kosovo's labour force will become redundant. There is not system in place holding the public university accountable to its students and the parents of students. Every year the labour market is invaded by approximately 30,000 new jobseekers, while the current economic growth generates around 15,000 new vacancies per year.

Comments to the results of survey in Kosovo

The survey, which was conducted in April 2017, sheds some light on the housing situation facing some of the youth in Kosovo. The questionnaire was distributed to 105 individuals between the ages of 20-29. 47% of the respondents live in the capital city, 30% live in another city or town, and 23% live in the countryside. 59% of the respondents were female and 40% were male.

The respondents' answers reflect a growing trend across the world where young adults are continuing to live at home.^{xiii} Out of 105 respondents, 51 still lived with their parents, which was the most commonly chosen option. Some youth expressed a desire to buy/rent their own apartment, but they also expressed the difficulties of doing so, citing issues with finding work and saving up the money to do so. This data at least partially reflects the struggles youth have with unemployment, as they need to continue to live with their parents either to continue their education for the prospect of employment later, or a lack of opportunities now.

In addition, only 6 respondents said they lived alone; the other 99 respondents all have a living situation with someone else. This conclusion is further reflected in the size of the respondents' living conditions; a large majority of the housing units are big enough to accommodate multiple people (units more than 20m² in area). This information also reflects the unemployment issues facing youth today as many of them cannot afford to live on their own.

However, the respondents' answers about their housing rights is very encouraging. A majority of the respondents were aware of their legal housing rights and over 75% wished to be involved with promoting tenants' rights. This echoes a trend with Kosovar youth's desire to be active in the civic rights sphere.

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- ⁱ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>
- ⁱⁱ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>
- ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>
- ^{iv} <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kv.html>
- ^v <http://data.worldbank.org/country/kosovo>
- ^{vi} http://www.youthpolicy.org/national/Kosovo_2009_Youth_Law.pdf
- ^{vii} https://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/KOSOVO_STRATEGY_FOR_YOUTH.pdf
- ^{viii} http://askdata.rks-gov.net/PXWeb/pxweb/en/askdata/askdata__Labour%20market__01%20Quarterly%20labour%20market__Unemployment/lfsq14.px/table/tableViewLayout2/?rxid=c3e44c2e-1aff-4e4a-b55b-2ca64a485a50
- ^{ix} <http://ask.rks-gov.net/media/1687/results-of-the-kosovo-2015-labour-force-survey.pdf>
- ^x <http://www.mkrs-ks.org/?page=2,44>
- ^{xi} http://www.mkrs-ks.org/repository/docs/KOSOVO_STRATEGY_FOR_YOUTH.pdf
- ^{xii} <http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/kosovo/>
- ^{xiii} <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2014/jan/21/record-levels-young-adults-living-home-ones>, <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/05/24/for-first-time-in-modern-era-living-with-parents-edges-out-other-living-arrangements-for-18-to-34->

Macedonia

Introduction

Macedonia is a small, landlocked country located in the central Balkan Peninsula in Southeastern Europe with a population of 2.083.113 people¹. It is bordered by Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Kosovo, and Serbia. Macedonia is a major transportation corridor from Western and Central Europe to the Aegean Sea and Southern Europe to Western Europe. The total land area is 25,224 Km² (9,739 sq. miles), the population density in the Republic of Macedonia is 83 per Km² (214 people per mi²) and **58.1 %** of the population is **urban**. The **median age** in the Republic of Macedonia is **37.8 years**. Sex ratio of the population is 50,1% for males and 49,9% females. Macedonia has a small, open economy that is vulnerable to economic developments in Europe and dependent on regional integration for continued economic growth. Macedonia is a member of the Central European Free Trade Agreement (CEFTA).

The situation of young people in Macedonia

Youth unemployment in Macedonia is like this - 17% has employment rate (15-24) and 48,2% has unemployment rate (15-24). Registered unemployed are 53,5% male and 46,5% female. 18,2% of them are completed primary education or they are without any education, 50.5 % has secondary education and 31.3 % are with higher and university education².

A high 83.7% of young people in Macedonia want to move out of the country. Two-thirds of them, which is 52.4%, want to move to one of the western European countries, almost 12% want to go the US and Canada, and 10.3% want to move to one of the Scandinavian countries. This survey was done by the NGO InfoCentre who are in partnership with the Macedonian Centre for European Training (MCET), the "September 8" association and the Centre for Media Development. It was conducted in the period of November 2015 – January 2016, among 503 respondents aged 20 to 35 in all eight regions of Macedonia (Skopje, Vardar, East, North-East, Pelagonia, Poloshki, South-West and the South-East). The survey shows that 63.4% of the respondents are not satisfied with employment, health services, education, infrastructure, and the environment in the communities in which they live in. The most dissatisfied are the youth of the Pelagonija Region, which is 51.7% and those from the North-East region which is 40.4%.

A group of 127 young people out of them 48,8 % women and 51,2 % men were interviewed during the period march – April 2017 about their housing issues. 3,9 % of the interviewed

¹ <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/macedonia-population/>

²

[https://www.etf.europa.eu/eventsmgmt.nsf/\(getAttachment\)/10444B8E32BDE785C12580350038B14B/\\$File/Presentation_FYROM.pdf](https://www.etf.europa.eu/eventsmgmt.nsf/(getAttachment)/10444B8E32BDE785C12580350038B14B/$File/Presentation_FYROM.pdf)

people belongs to 20-21 years old, 18,1 % belongs to 22-23 years old, 19,7 % belongs to 24-25 years old, 24,4 % belongs to 26-27 years old and 34% belongs to 28-29 years old group.

The most of the interviewed are living in the capital city of Macedonia Skopje 60% and only 5% are living in country side/villages.

The most of them are living in apartment/flat with 60,6%, other in house with 35,4%, 2,4 % lives in dorms and only 1,6% in rooms.

Most of them 93 % has more than 20m² home surface, 7,1 % lives in 10-20 m² and the others lives in homes with less then 10m² homesurfaces with 1,6%.

98,4 % has showers in their houses, but 1,6 % does not have showers. 11 % of interviewers lives alone versus 58,3% that lives with their parents. 13,4 % lives with their own family.

35,4% of the interviewers were tenants, 33,1 % were owners and most co-owners 35,4%.

The most interesting thing is that most of the them with a 93% are satisfied with their housing situation.

But 82% like to change their housing situation with solution with high percent for buying a flat or apartment 42,5%. 24% with building a house, 13% with inherit a property and 11% said with renting a property. 11,8% said: that at the moment I have no solution for this situation, My financial situation is not allowing me to live elsewhere except with my family, Save money or get a bank loan to buy new furniture, I already own a property, I want to move abroad, go to live whit my grandparents, no.

69,2 % of the interviewers are aware for their legal rights regarding the rented houses versus 30,8 % that are not aware. 61,4 % would like to become active regarding tenants' rights.

88,2% are not active member of a CSO.

SERBIA

The Republic of Serbia has population out of 7 million citizens covering the area of almost 90 square kilometers. Capital city Belgrade is inhabited by almost third of population. Since democratic changes in 2000 Serbia is in the process of democratic transition. As EU candidate country in process of negotiations it expects to become the member state in recent future. The estimation of GDP per capita for 2017 is \$15387.

Situation of Youth in Serbia

The youth in Serbia (up to 30 years according to Law on Youth) represent app. 21% of total population. The unemployment rate of youth is 47%, and more than half (61,3%) depends out of parents income. Two thirds wants to leave the country due to unemployment, low income and uncertainty.

Regarding the education, one of the latest available researches shows that 27% of youth is in colleges, 27% in the high school education. Still, only 10% of citizens has a degree. There is a significant difference regarding the relation of youth from urban and rural area since the percentage of urban area youth in universities is twice bigger than those from rural areas.

Educational system is not keeping up with European standards in almost all relevant areas. There is a clear lack of practice and skills that youth really learns through education. The obvious proof is that Serbian students are traditionally on the bottom of list of PISA test results.

Serbia has Ministry of Youth and Sports in charge for the youth policies. In reality, the key focus of this ministry is professional sport and national sport teams. The Youth Strategy 2015 – 2025 is in the process of implementation through action plans on local and national level. As Youth Offices as key stakeholder on local level are not properly funded or supplied with quality youth workers, results are still not providing much to hope for.

Participation of youth is low at all levels, and apathy is problem for more than a decade now. Lack of trust in institutions and other stakeholders and high percentage of youth that sees only perspective in leaving Serbia is strongly affecting apathy and loss of interest for local or national youth problems.

All in all, the youth is not seen as important and unique social group by decision makers (unlike pensioners per instance). Represented through enthusiastic civil society organizations, youth is neglected in almost every policy making process, and in almost all sectors. Political parties are not offering specific solutions to youth, or targeting them at all. Participation is at the low level. Low income, bad education system, lack of financial independence from parents, along with other factors are affecting every aspect of their life, including housing.

Comments to the results of survey

This survey has been done on a sample of 108 interviews, man and women, age 18-30. Distribution of the questionnaire forms were considered from a geographical point of view (capital, city/town, countryside), social status (student, unemployed, employed) and channelled through faculties, CSOs and public places in Belgrade, Zajecar, Valjevo and via online panel in the rest of Serbia.

The answers of respondents are confirming the problem with social and economic position of youth in Serbia. The research confirms financial dependence of youth, and unemployment problem that directly affects to housing status.

Regarding the results that are clearly confirming that youth has housing issue vast majority of respondents claims that they are satisfied with their housing situation. The answer confirms claim that the apathy among the youth is on the high level.

Majority of respondents stated that inheriting property is their solution to housing unit. This answer is closely connected to tradition, but affects girls, since it is expectations that sons inherit property and daughters move to their partners.

Final conclusion that can be made beyond reasonable doubt is that there is significant number of youth living with their parents. Combining this fact with other researches and facts is confirming the strong connection of relation of unemployment and finances of youth with housing issues.

Sweden

Sweden has a population of 10 million citizens covering an area of 450,3 square meters. Approximately 85% of the population lives in urban areas, due to that fact Sweden has a low population density of 22 inhabitants per square meter.

2 million people are under the age of 18. Eighty-five percent of them live in cities. Sweden is a very multicultural country: 15 per cent of Swedes were born in another country, while about one in five children in Sweden has a family with roots in another country.

Unemployment

Situation for young people in Sweden

A home of your own, away from your parents, is an important part in becoming an adult. It is important in the development for both the individual it self and for the society. There is a lack of housing throughout the country. There is a huge gap between how the young would want to live and how they are actually living.

24% of young adults in Sweden still live with their parents. That is the highest number in 20 years according to the report about Young adults that the Swedish association of tenants recently presented. In 1997 the number was 15%. About 80% of the young adults living with their parents say that they'd rather move out if they could.

Only about 25% of the young people who have moved out from their parents have a firsthand contract. The rest are renting an apartment second hand, renting a room in someone else's apartment/house or have made other arrangements.

Statistics show that the income within the youth population is very low. We can see that the costs of living keeps rising but the income stays the same. The math is simple – the equation does not add up.

Comments to the results of survey

The survey has been done in several different cities with a focus on finding a big variety of different housing types, social status, (students, employed, unemployed etc.).

When collecting the answers there has been a interesting dialogue with the respondents about their thoughts on their current living situation and about the fut

The majority of the respondents are currently living in an apartment that is larger than 20 square meters, and located in a city or a town. It also seems that the majority of the respondents are satisfied with their living situation.

Most of the participants are tenants and only a few own their house or apartment. However on the question on how they plan to solve their living situation almost as many answered "buy an apartment" as "rent an apartment". The youth in Sweden today have given up hope on finding an apartment to rent at a reasonable cost. The result, as we see in the survey, is that almost the same amount of the young people see "buying an apartment" as the way to solve their housing situation.

Comments from the countries

In the report of the survey, the organizations responsible for the work in each country have commented on the work. Each organization has compiled information about the country and the conclusions they have reached regarding the survey.

Result, comments and next step

Part of the survey is about young people's willingness to engage in wanting to change their living conditions. The question is very important and very interesting. Previous research has shown the more developed welfare that exists in the country, the less important it is to be engaged as many rights are being met by society. While in other countries, it is not as obvious with democracy that the will grows to increase the commitment. In this study, another pattern with young people's tendency to influence their situation and use their democratic rights shows. This area will be studied further in future discussions.

The survey shows also what previous research pointed out that there are, in fact, many who would like to be active, but do not know how. This makes it interesting about organized engagement contra social movements. And how young people could use their rights to influence their living conditions.

In a next step, a number of seminars will now be held to discuss conclusions and comparative comments on all countries included in the survey. The seminars will involve experts from national and European level.

Summary

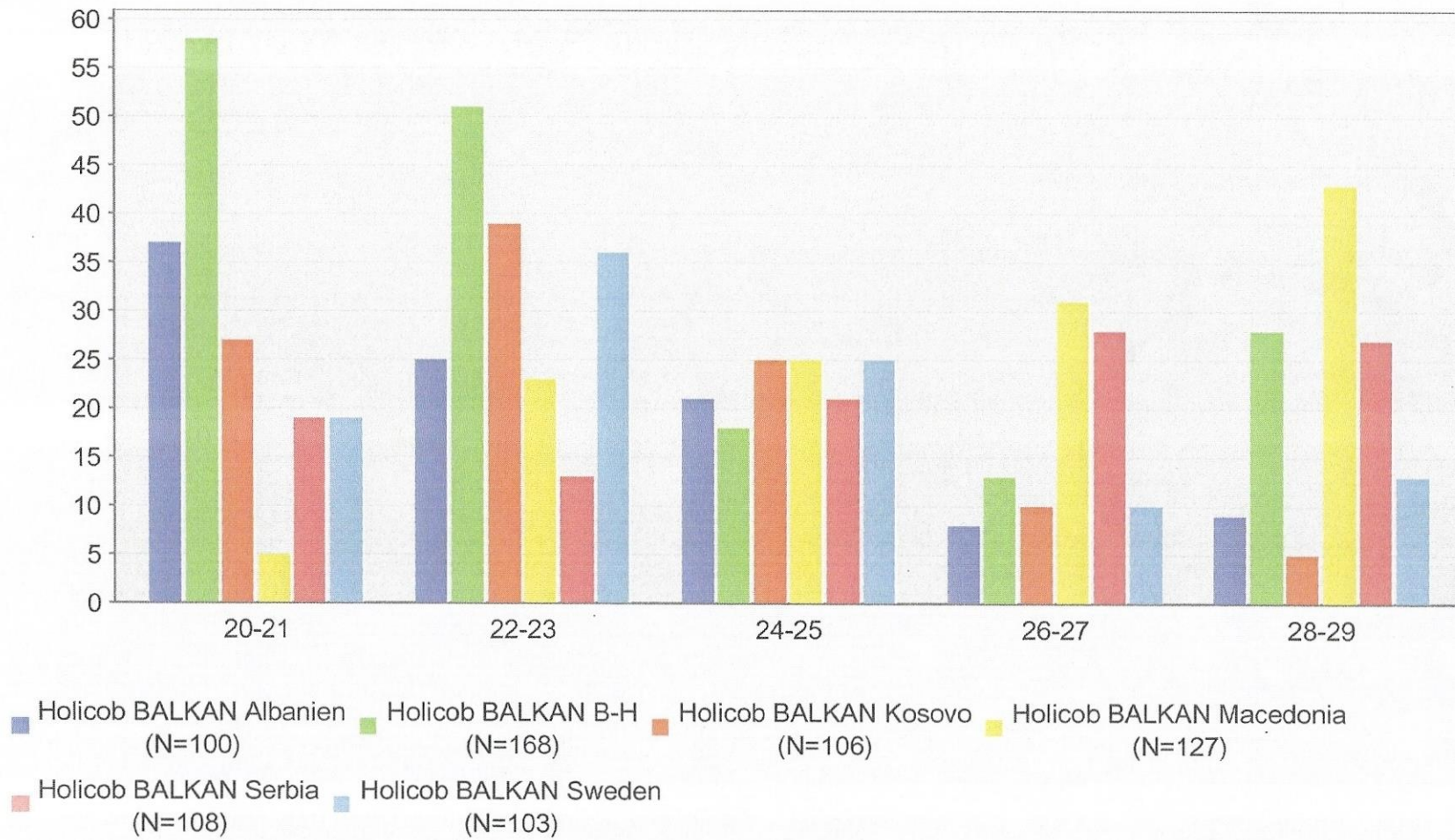
There is a need to learn by the experience of cooperation in the partnership on all the above matters and to link CSOs from the Western Balkan and EU for potential long and sustainable cooperation to involve young people to protect their rights. The report is a contribution to this cooperation.

ANNEX 1

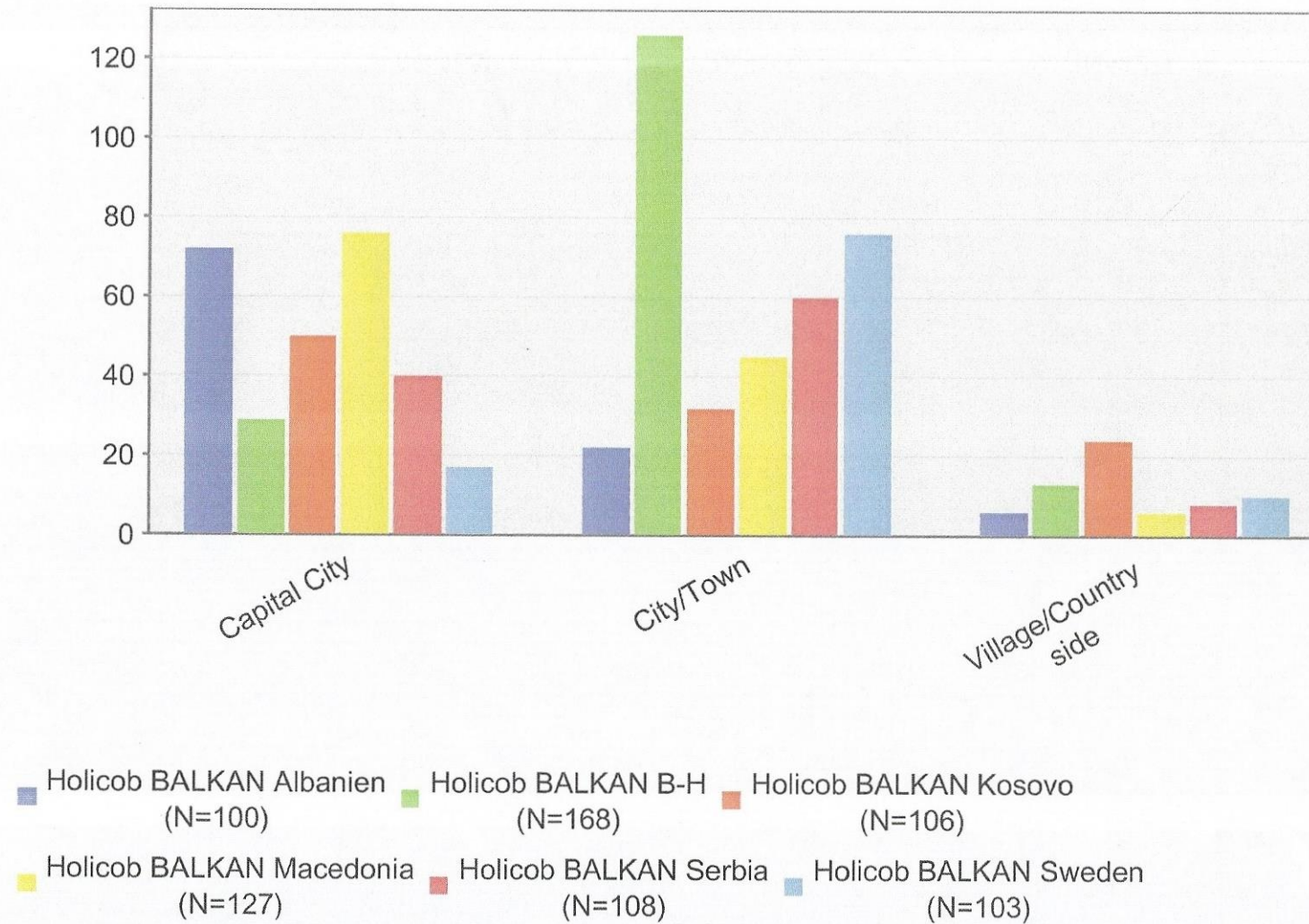
Result -diagram

Holicob BALKAN TEST

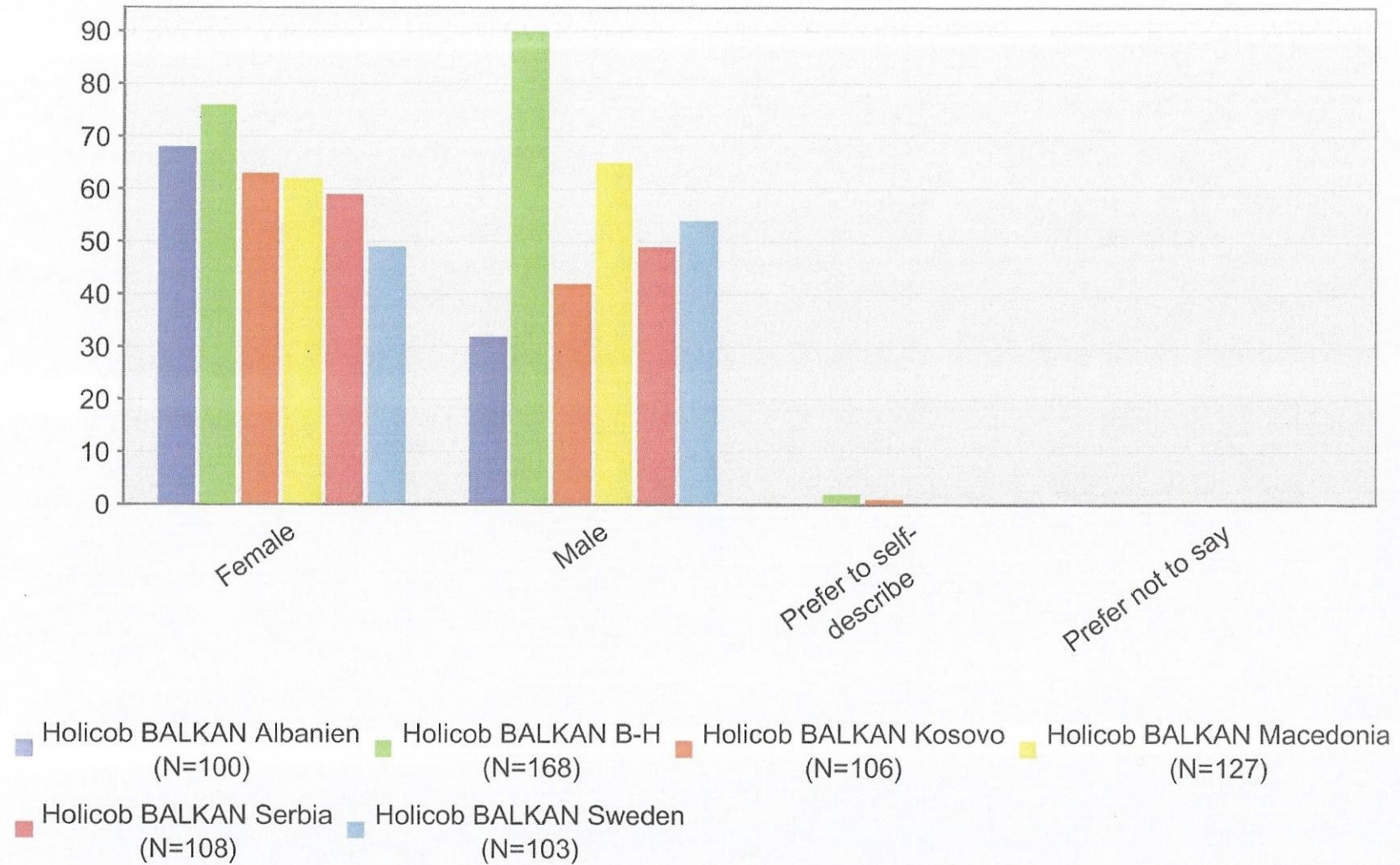
1. Age?



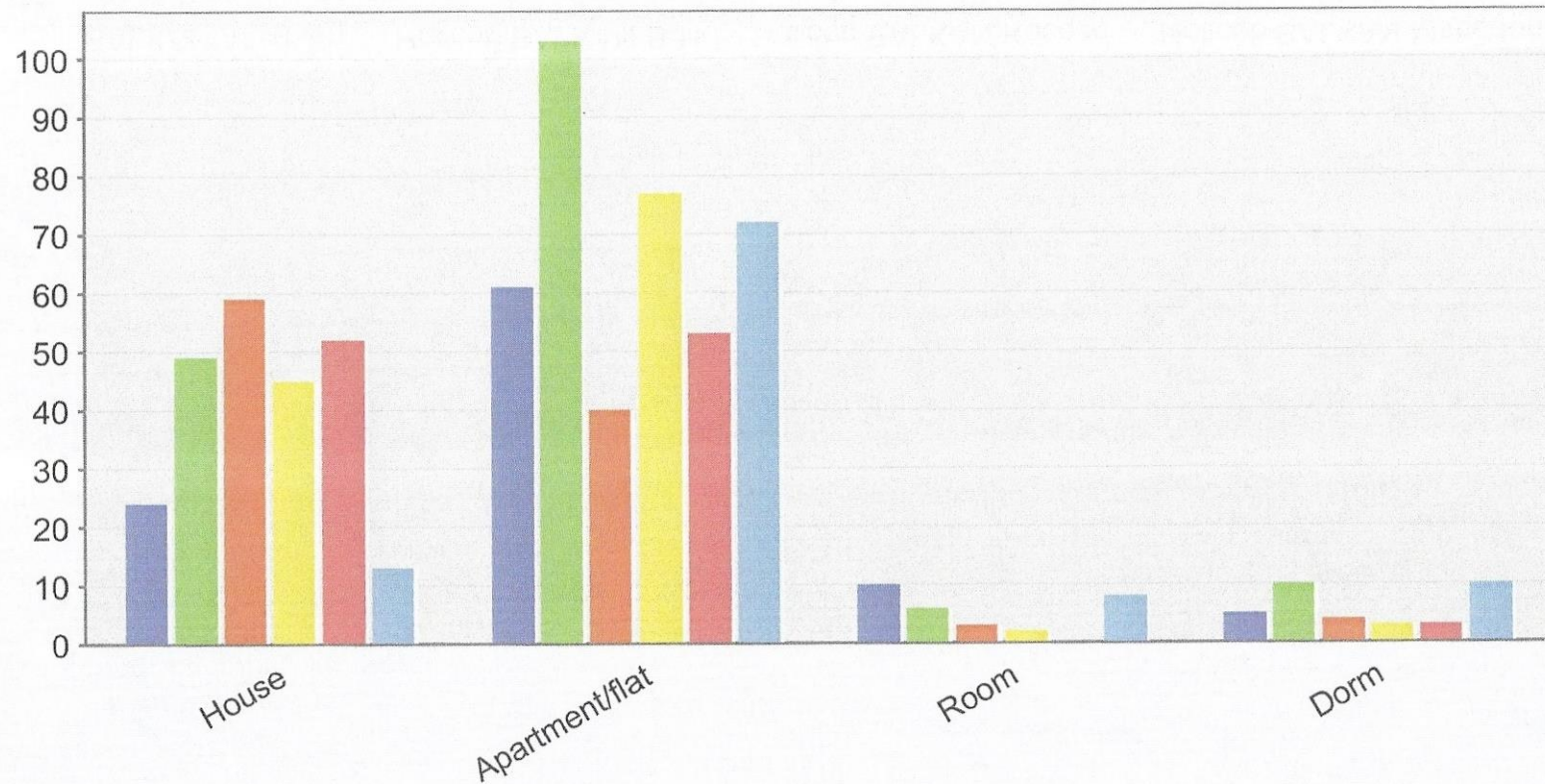
2. Current living place?



3. Gender?

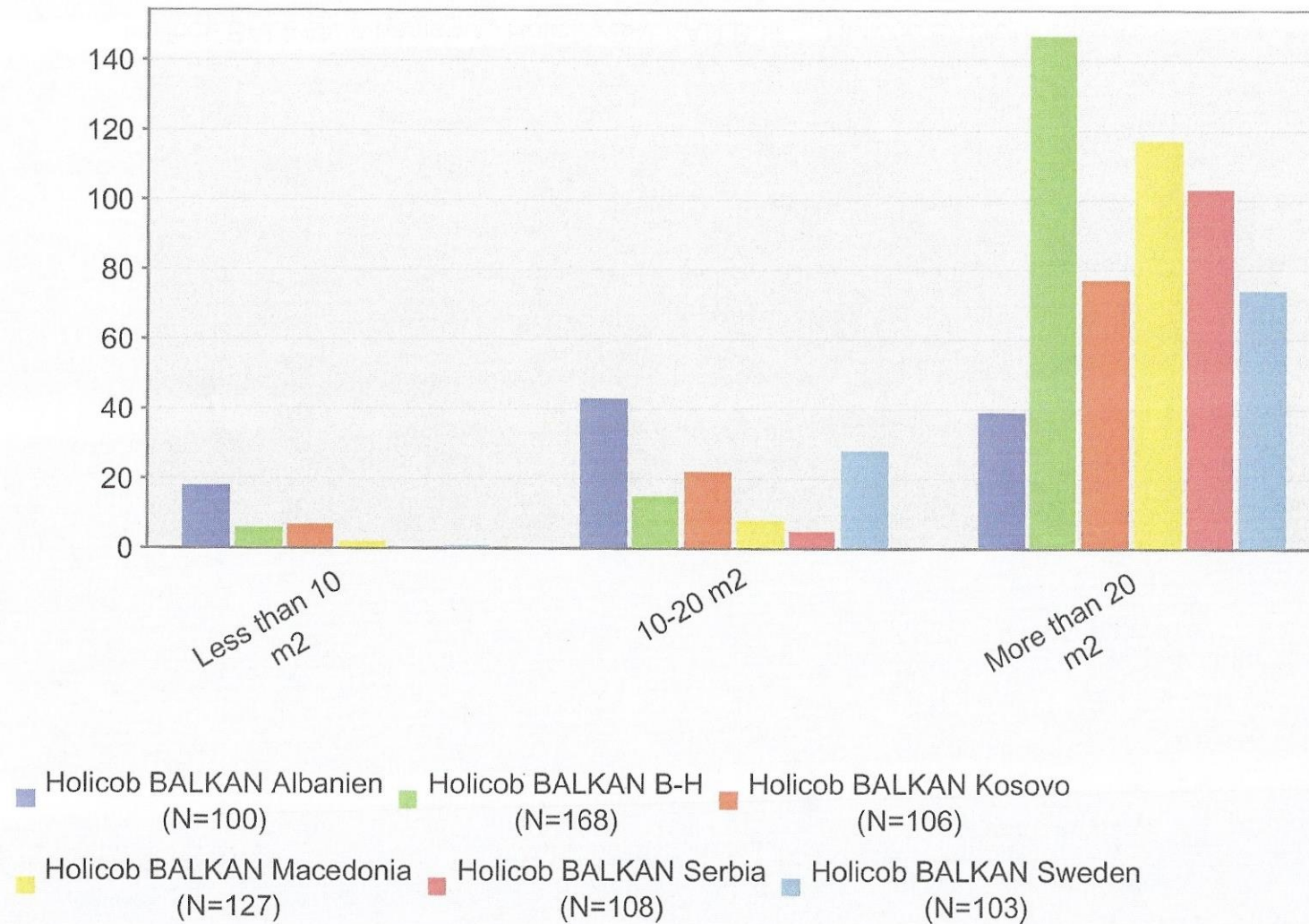


4. Type of housing unit you live in?

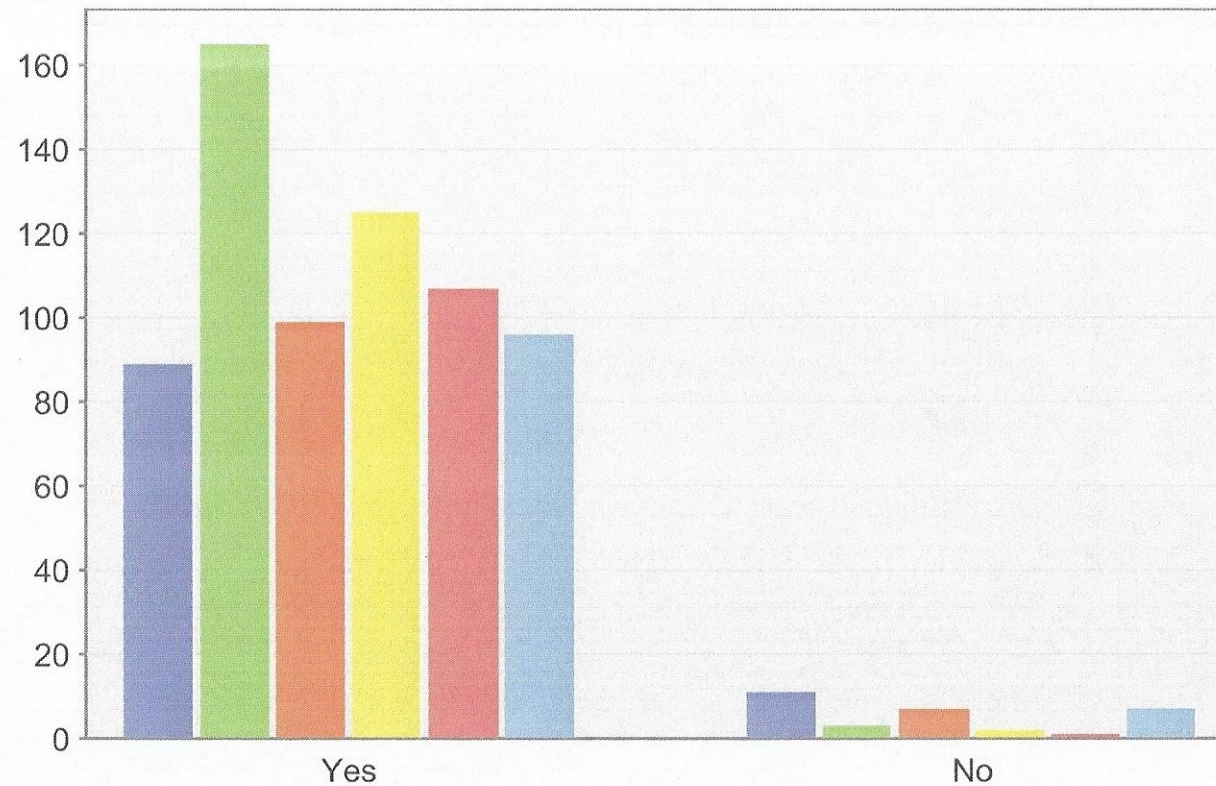


■ Holicob BALKAN Albanien (N=100) ■ Holicob BALKAN B-H (N=168) ■ Holicob BALKAN Kosovo (N=106) ■ Holicob BALKAN Macedonia (N=127)
■ Holicob BALKAN Serbia (N=108) ■ Holicob BALKAN Sweden (N=103)

5. Size of your housing unit?

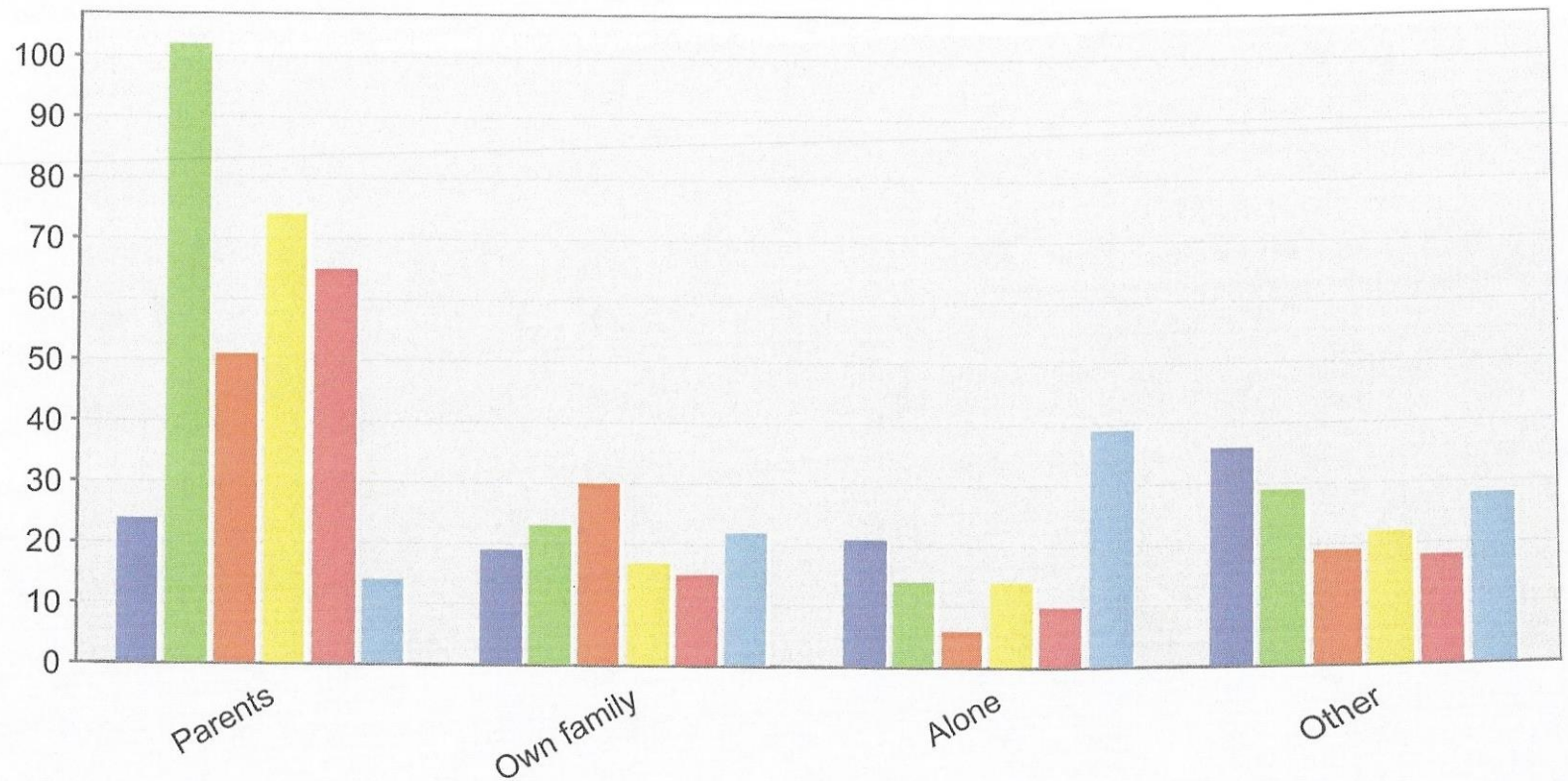


6. Bathroom with shower?



■ Holicob BALKAN Albanien (N=100) ■ Holicob BALKAN B-H (N=168) ■ Holicob BALKAN Kosovo (N=106)
■ Holicob BALKAN Macedonia (N=127) ■ Holicob BALKAN Serbia (N=108) ■ Holicob BALKAN Sweden (N=103)

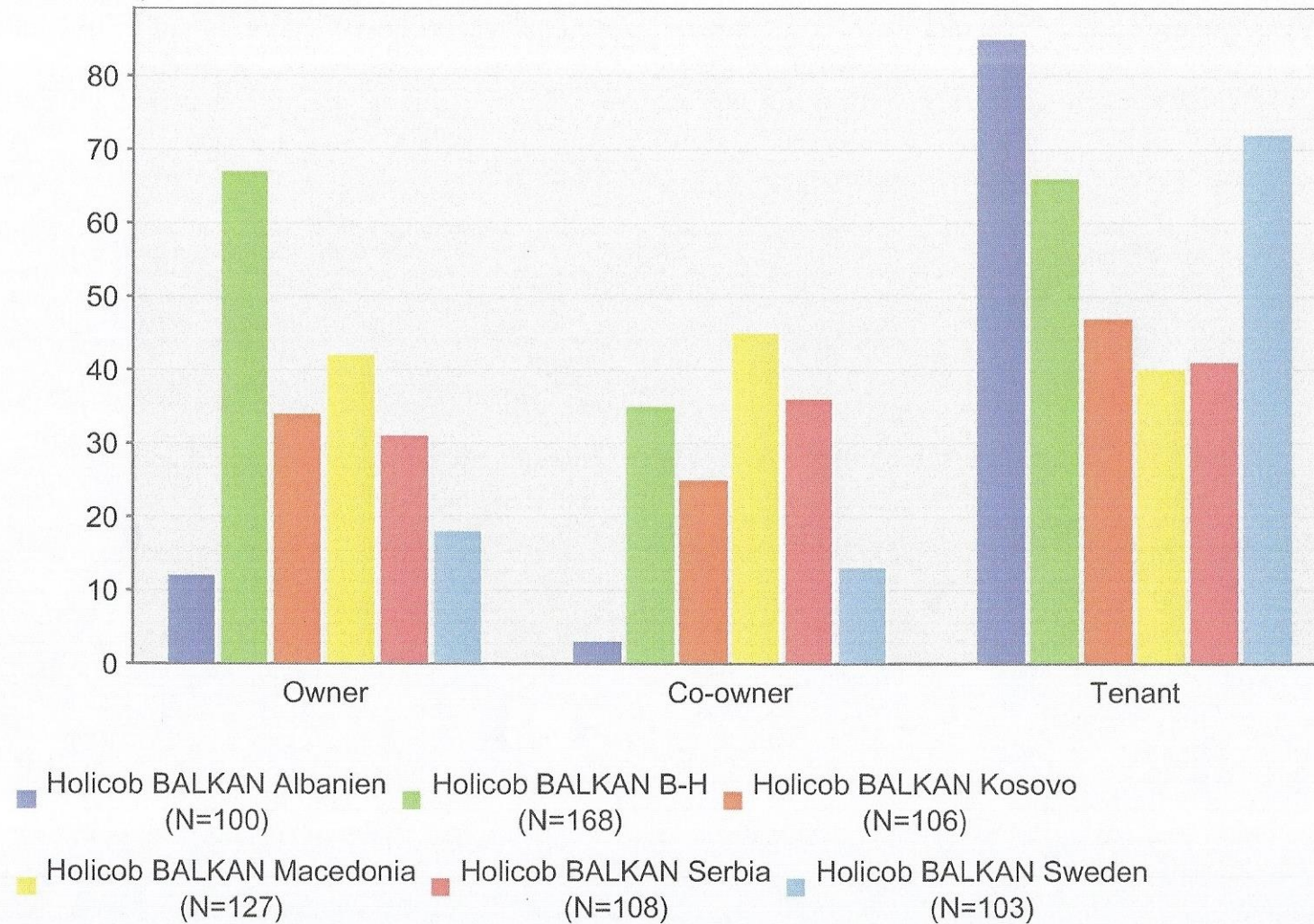
7. With whom are you living?



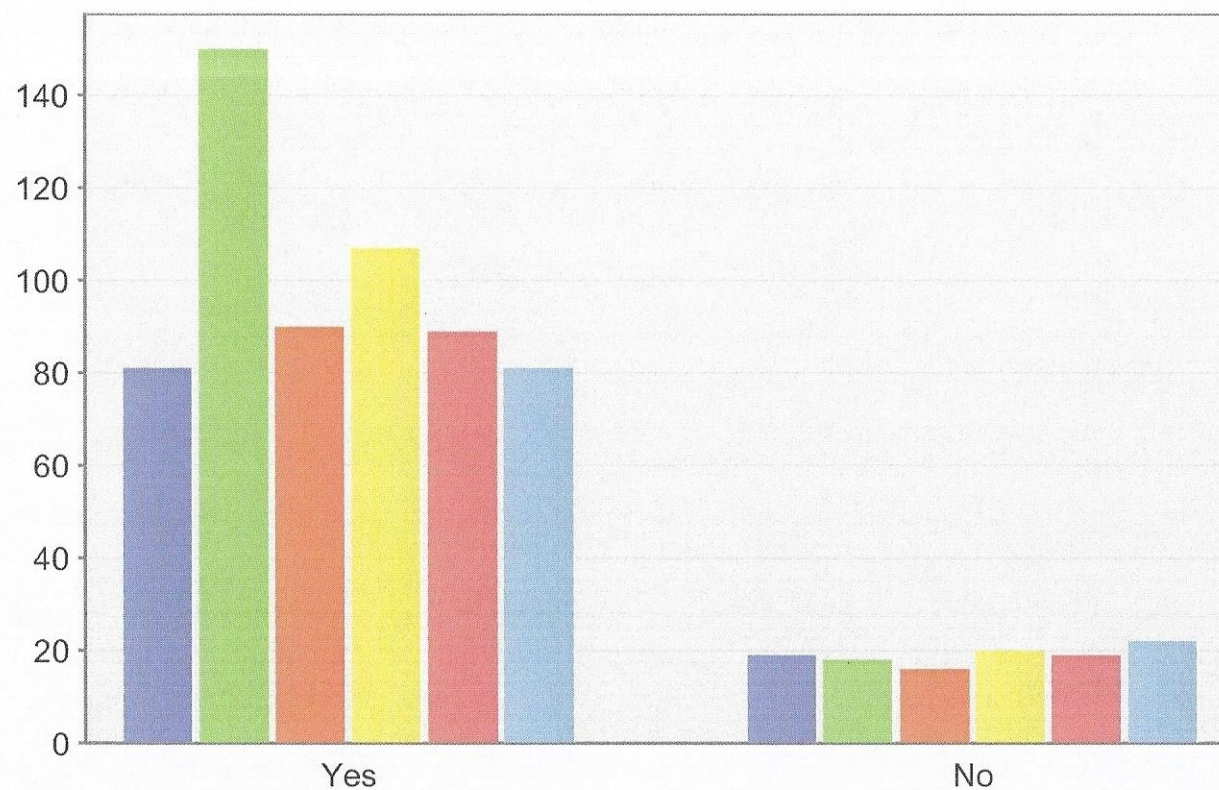
■ Holicob BALKAN Albanien (N=100)
 ■ Holicob BALKAN B-H (N=168)
 ■ Holicob BALKAN Kosovo (N=106)
 ■ Holicob BALKAN Macedonia (N=127)

■ Holicob BALKAN Serbia (N=108)
 ■ Holicob BALKAN Sweden (N=103)

8. Your status of the housing unit?

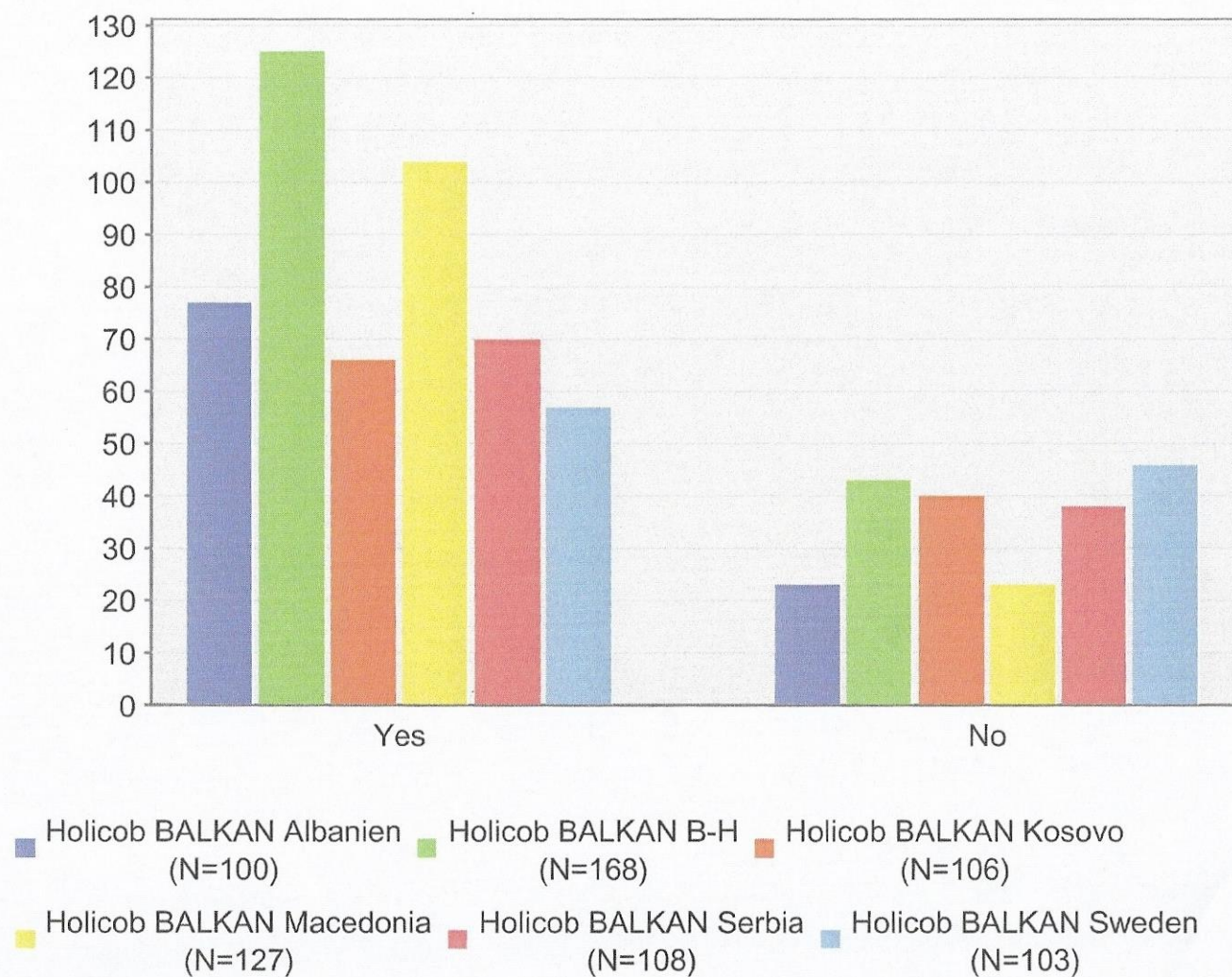


9. Are you satisfied with your housing situation?

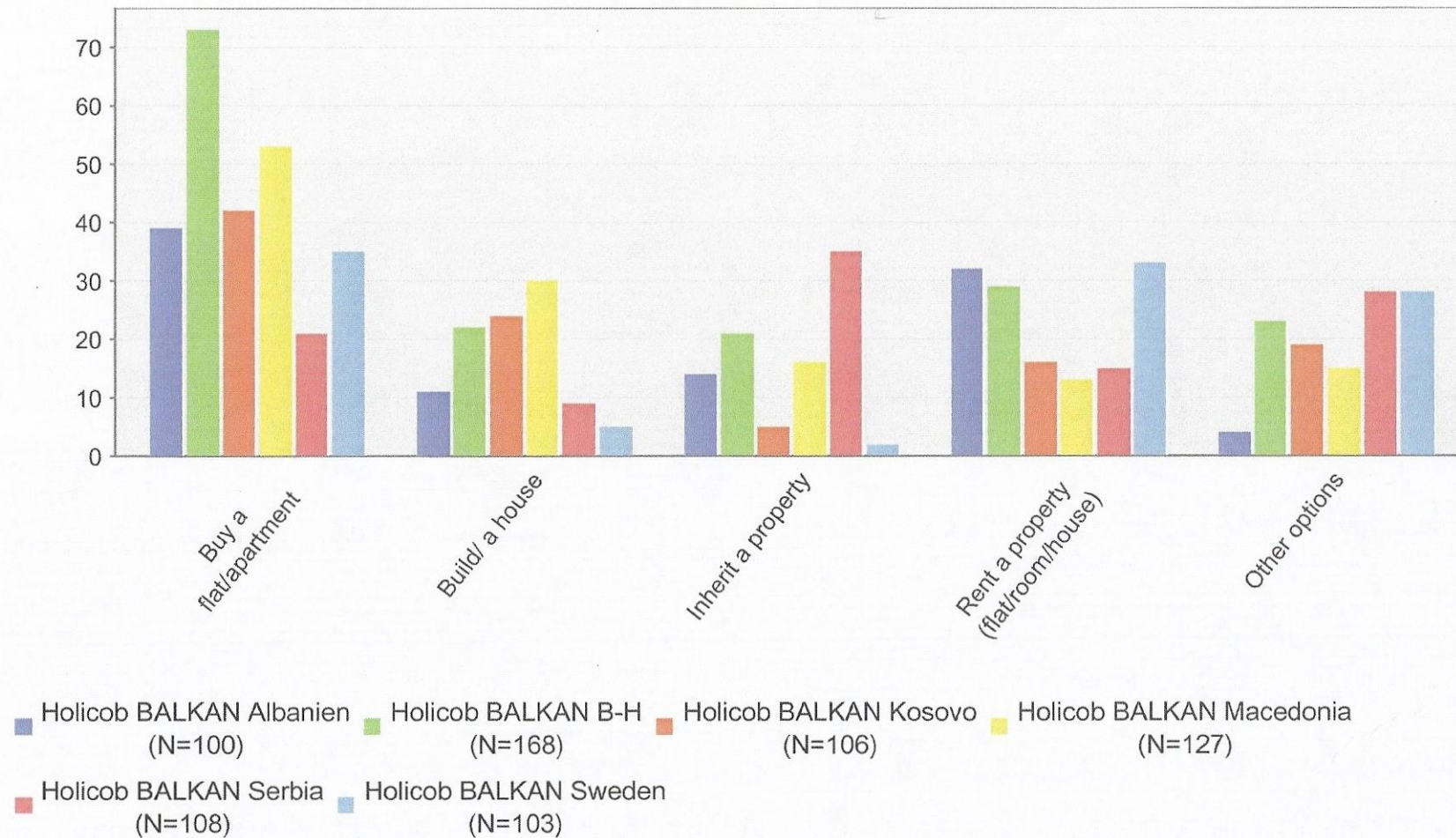


■ Holicob BALKAN Albanien (N=100) ■ Holicob BALKAN B-H (N=168) ■ Holicob BALKAN Kosovo (N=106)
■ Holicob BALKAN Macedonia (N=127) ■ Holicob BALKAN Serbia (N=108) ■ Holicob BALKAN Sweden (N=103)

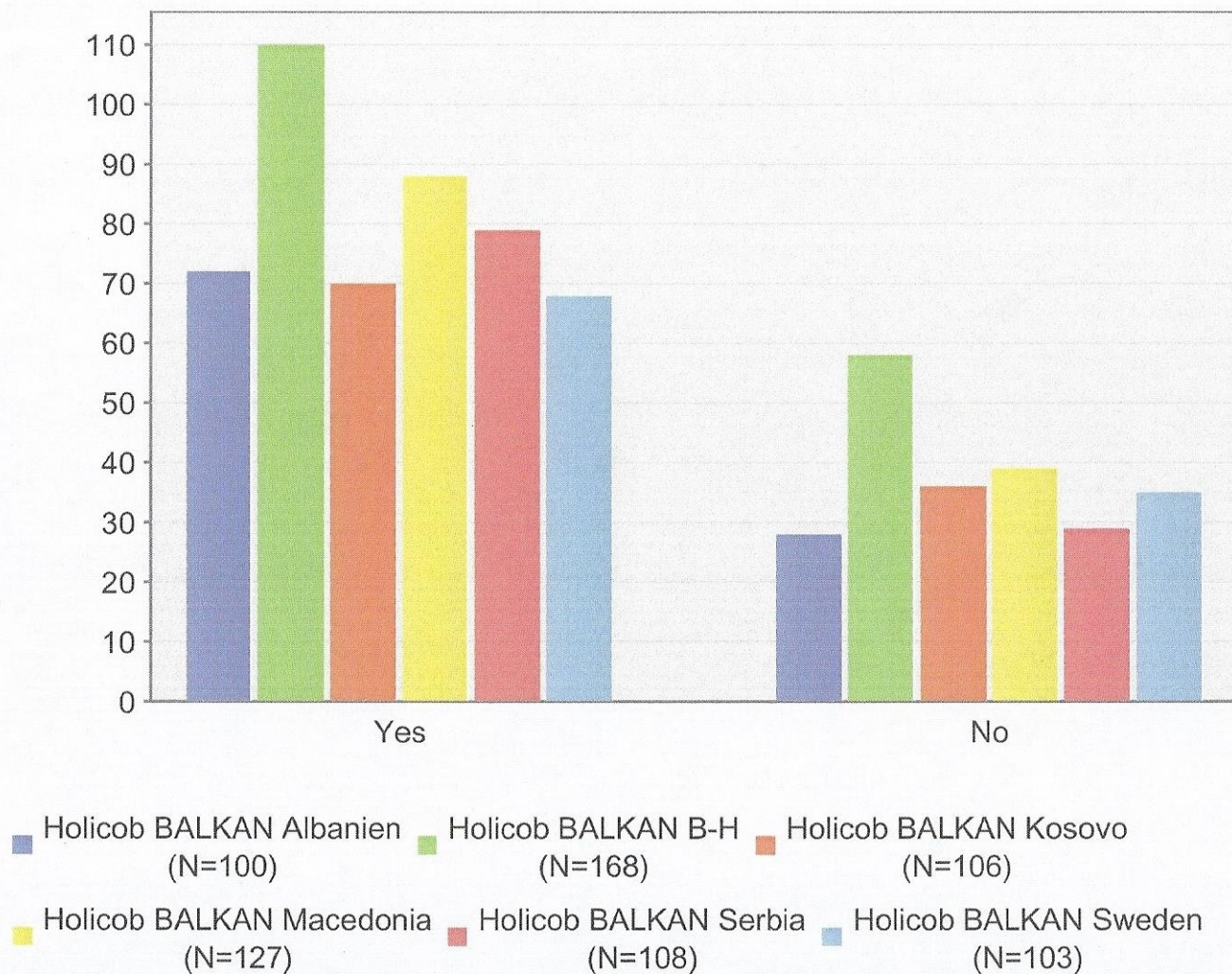
10. Are you going to solve your housing situation?



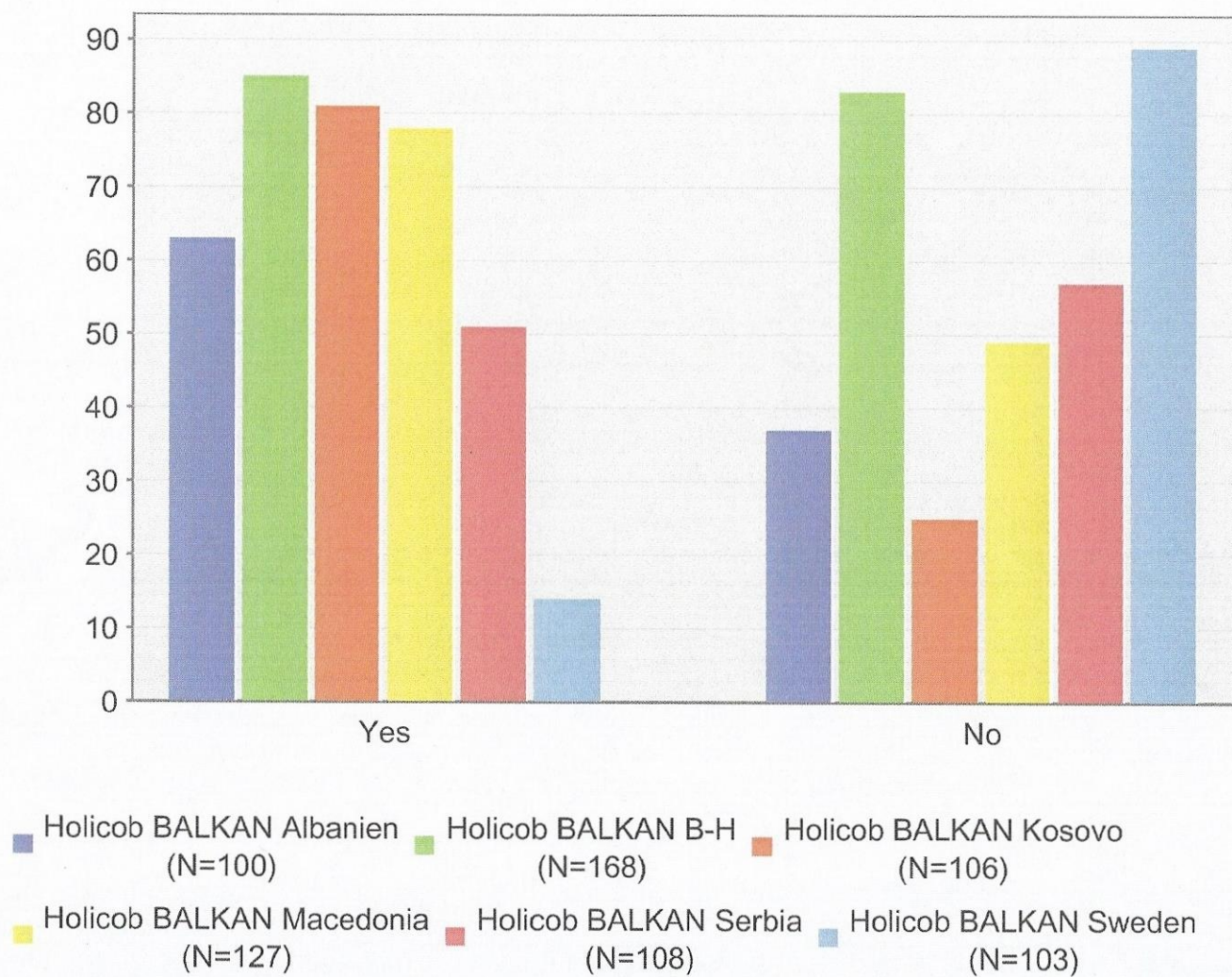
11. How are you going to solve your housing issue?



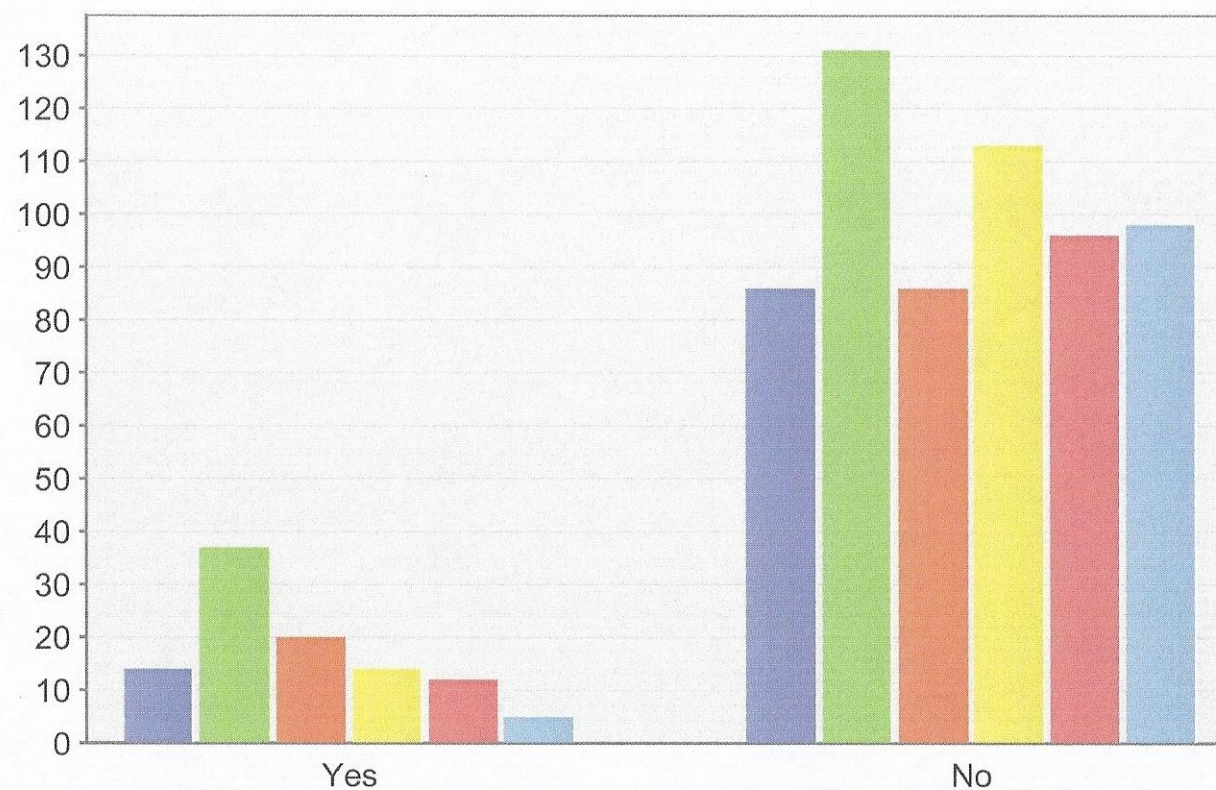
12. Are you aware of your legal rights reagarding housing?



13. Would you like to be active regarding tenants rights?



14. Are you an active member of a CSO?



■ Holicob BALKAN Albanien (N=100) ■ Holicob BALKAN B-H (N=168) ■ Holicob BALKAN Kosovo (N=106)
■ Holicob BALKAN Macedonia (N=127) ■ Holicob BALKAN Serbia (N=108) ■ Holicob BALKAN Sweden (N=103)

15. If YES, what is the mission of the CSO?

