

Working status of students in Western Balkans

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Data...



	BA	ME	RS
Student population:	72460	26054	238945
Number of HEIs:	106	13	182
Sample size	3594	1632	3780

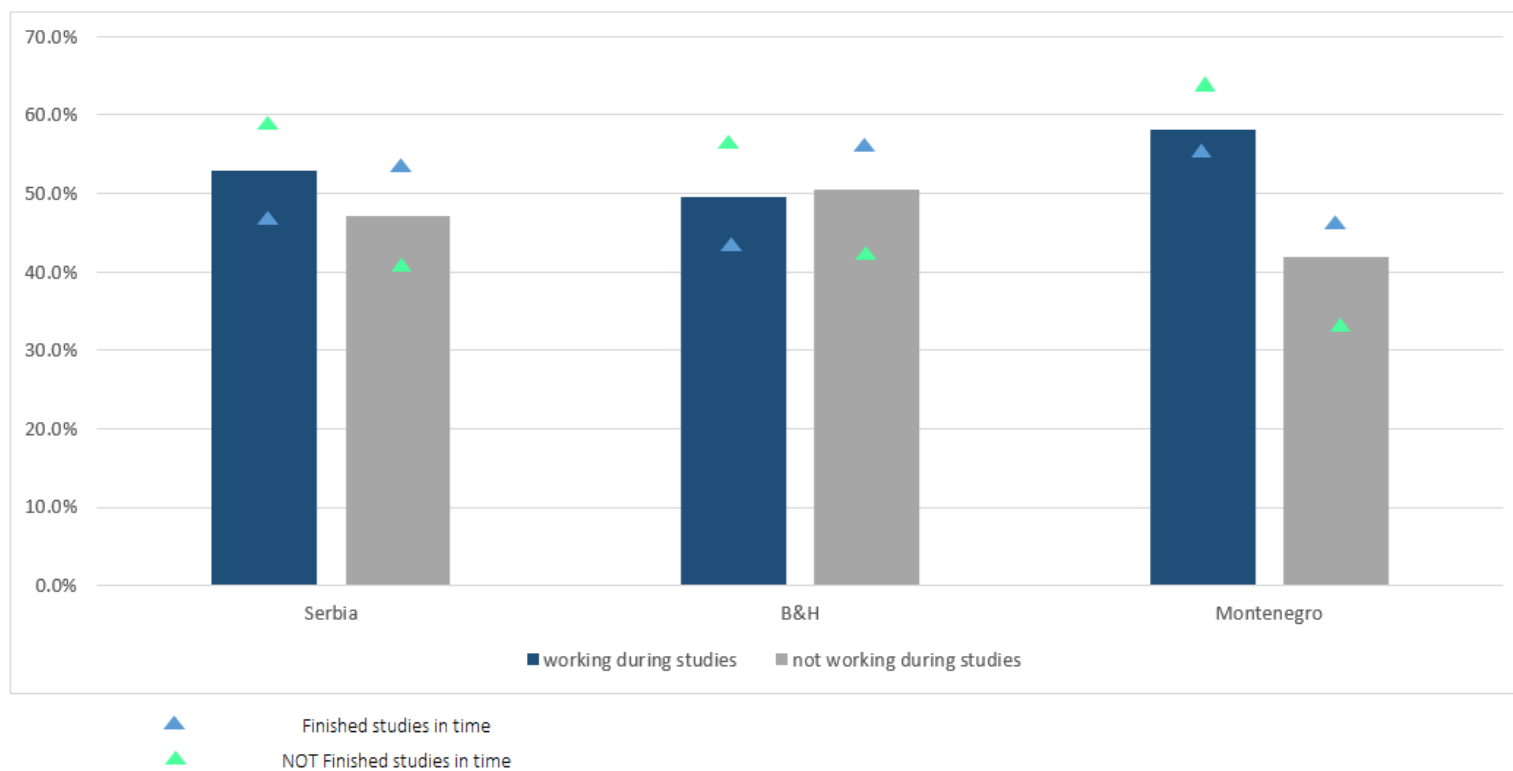


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Why working students?

- Benefits
 - Experience, knowledge and skills, development of generic competences better position in the labour market after graduating Wats and Pickering (2000)
 - very good predictor of an easier employment after graduation (Blackwell et al, 2013)
- Downsides
 - Students who work longer have a slightly lower educational results and report a bigger work load that affects studying McKechnie, Dunleavy & Hobbs (2005)
- Reduction in the time available for meeting study commitments, negative effect on academic achievement if the number of working hours per week exceeds 18 hours perweek) (Kosi et al, 2013).

What we knew before we started



Research questions

- Who are the students who are working while studying?
 - Students who are working to gain experience
 - Students who are working to fund their living
- Connection between studying and working

Percentage of working students in BA, ME, RS

	BA	ME	RS
Students who work to cover the living expenses	6.5	17.0	6.8
Students who work to gain work experience	7.6	19.6	5.7
Students who work both to cover the living expenses and to gain work experience	5.8	11.5	7.6
Students who don't work	80.0	51.9	79.9

Who are our working students?

Expenses and parents' occupation and education

Family background as a strong predictor!

Financial situation

All three countries → students who are working, are **less financially dependent** on their parents.

Housing situation

Students who work for a living in Serbia more often live independently

Students who work to gain experience in ME and BA more often live independently, compared to students who do not work

Parenthood

In Serbia, the students who are parents have a 3.5 times greater chance to work for experience than those who do not work.

Ref. Students who do not work		RS	ME	BA
Students who work to fund their living	Total expences	+	+	+
	Ocupation of parents	+	+	
	Education of parents			+
	Family support	-	-	-
	Living with parents	-		
	Children		+	+
Students who work to gain experience	Total expences	+	+	
	Ocupation of parents		+	+
	Education of parents	+		
	Family support	-	-	-
	Living with parents		-	-
	Children	+	+	

Connection between studying and working

Budget vs. Self-financed

Common to all three countries is the **less favourable position** of students who work to fund their **living**.

Interruption of education career on for at least one year

In all three countries there are significantly more students who were **at least one year outside the studying process** among those who are working to fund their living.

Continuation of studying

Students who work to fund their **living** will **rarely continue with studying**.

In all three countries, students who work to fund their living have **lower aspirations and plans to continue** their **studies abroad**.

Interruption of education career for at least one year (in%)

	BA	ME	RS
Work to fund their living	30.4	36.7	21.7
Work to gain experience	6.3	16.7	11
Do not work	6.7	8.5	10.8
Total	8.3	15.8	11.6

Connection between studying and working

Workload

In all three countries, **students who work to fund their living**, spend significantly **more time per week** at work compared to students who work with motivation to gain experience.

Satisfaction with workload

In all three countries, students who work to **finance living** are **less satisfied** with the amount of time they spend at work, the amount of time left for studying and the overall workload than the students who work to gain experience

Perception of the possibility to find a job in the country

Students who **work for the experience** see somewhat **greater chance** for themselves than students who work for a living in Bosnia and Hercegovina and Montenegro.

Workload per country and work motivation

		Mean
BA	work to fund their living	27.07
	work to gain experience	13.61
ME	work to fund their living	36.79
	work to gain experience	31.45
RS	work to fund their living	30.02
	work to gain experience	22.57

So...

Students who work to fund their living:

- parenthood - significant predictor
- more financial difficulties
- less satisfied with their housing situation
- spend more time at work
- less satisfied with the workload
- significantly less effective
- more likely to take a break longer than a year
- rarely plan to continue their studies or go abroad.

Students who work to gain experience

- Students who work to gain experience → the most privileged category
- In ME and BA more often live independently
- Significantly more often live with their parents (ME, RS)

- **BUT** → there is no significant difference between the two categories of working students and the connection of the job with the study programme



Thank you!

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