

I've been thinking about enrolling in some additional courses, but most of it, something online, so somehow I'll do something like eight hours a day every day so I can keep up with it. So yes, I plan to continue to educate myself as much as I can, but, as I said, I'm not really happy with the fact that it's very difficult, almost impossible, to get a job in my field without some connections and stuff."

(Female, unemployed, Croatia)

Although temporary employment among young people is also more prevalent than in the general working population, a shift toward more stable and permanent employment has been observed over the past decade, but again, young women trail young men in this regard. Finally, while the COVID-19 pandemic caused short-term negative trends in the labour market, no long-term effects on youth employment status or unemployment rates have been observed. The share of young people not engaged in education or employment (NEET) has decreased in both countries over the past decade (2013 vs 2023) – from 22.1 to 11.8% in Croatia and from 12.9 to 7.8% in Slovenia, but the problem of NEET still deserves attention due to its potential negative impacts on youth well-being.

5.2 Sectors of employment and education-employment alignment

Although public sector jobs tend to offer higher average wages and more stable employment compared to their private counterparts, influencing the perceptions and choices of young job seekers (Hyder & Reilly, 2022), the allure of entrepreneurial opportunities and dynamic corporate cultures in the private sector frequently attracts youth who prioritise growth and flexibility (Simões & Brito do Rio, 2020). Figure 5.4. shows sectoral distribution of youth employment in Slovenia and Croatia.

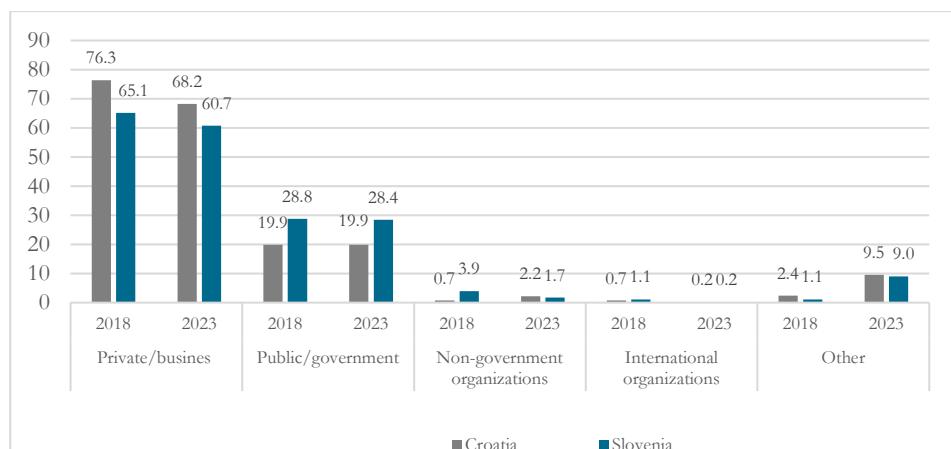


Figure 5.4: Young people employed in each sector, 2018 vs 2023, by country (%)

Source: YSEE 2018/2019 and YO-VID22, 2023