



Aspirations of youth
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Decent Jobs for Youth // the global initiative for action

A silver laptop is shown from a front-facing perspective, slightly angled. The screen is white and displays three lines of dark blue text. The laptop has a black bezel around the screen and a small 'MacBook' logo centered below the screen. The background is plain white.

There are 1.8 billion young people in the
world.

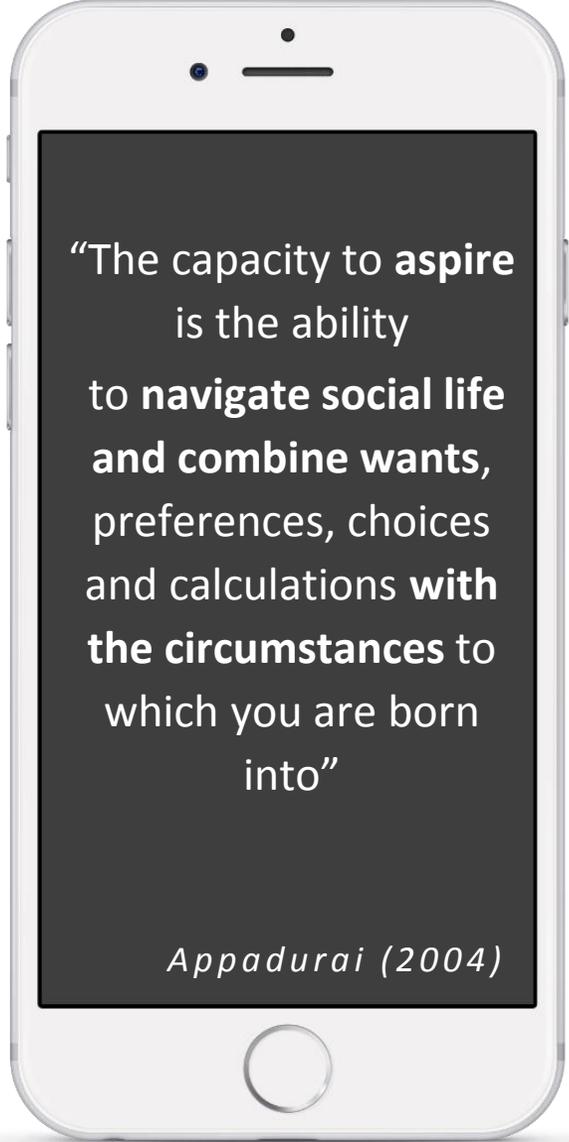
Half the world is under 30 and nine in ten of
these young people live in developing
countries.

This is the largest youth population there has
ever been.

ASPIRATIONS

Aspirations capture the personal preferences of individuals
(preferences/goals),
their beliefs about opportunities available to them in society
(opportunities/pathways),
and their expectations about what they can achieve through their own effort in an uncertain future
(self-efficacy/agency)

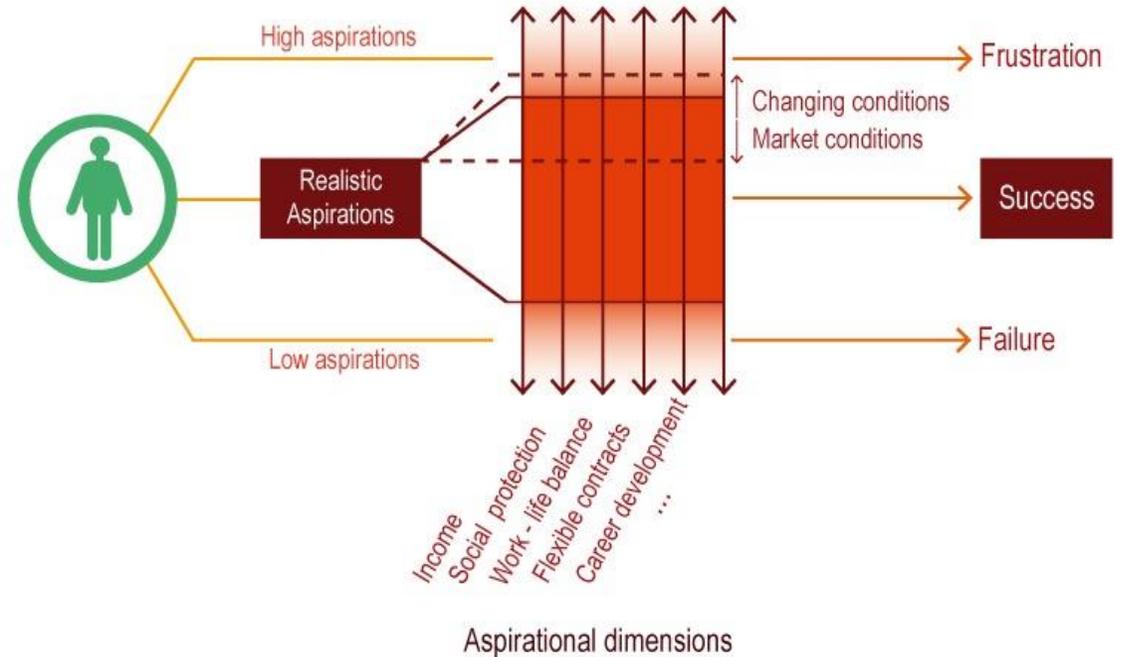
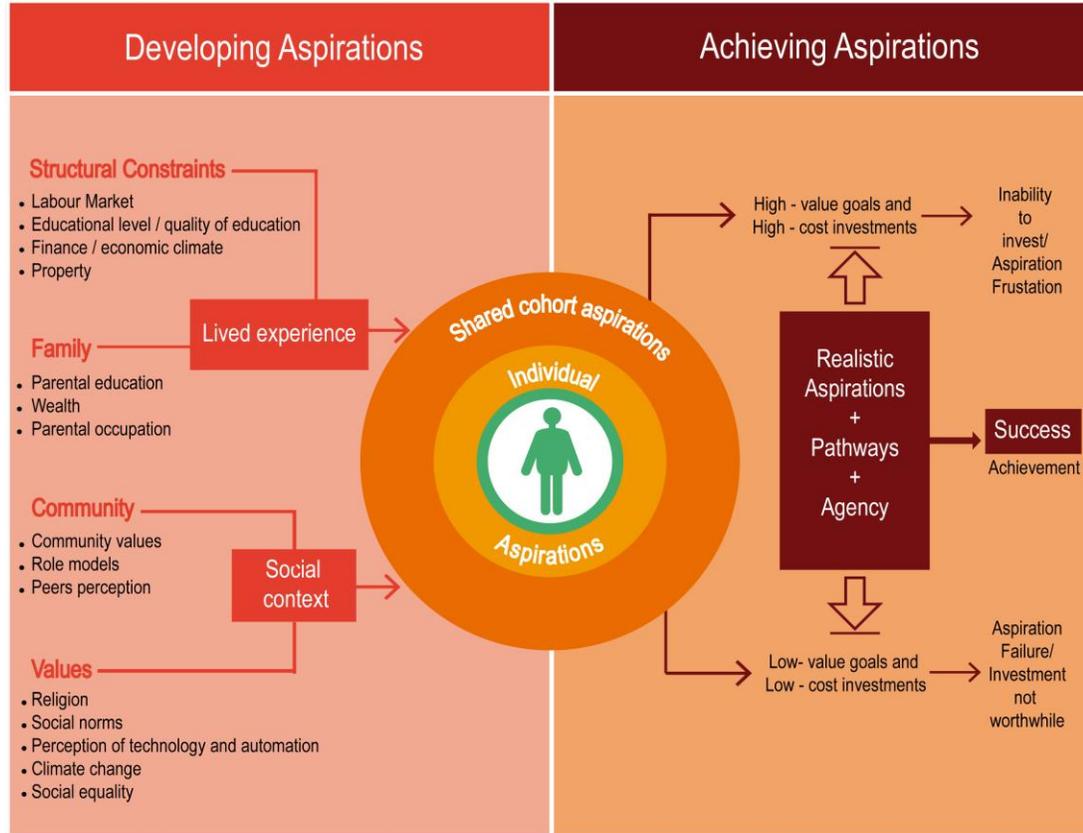
New empirical literature



“The capacity to **aspire** is the ability to **navigate social life and combine wants, preferences, choices and calculations with the circumstances** to which you are born into”

Appadurai (2004)

Achieving our aspirations



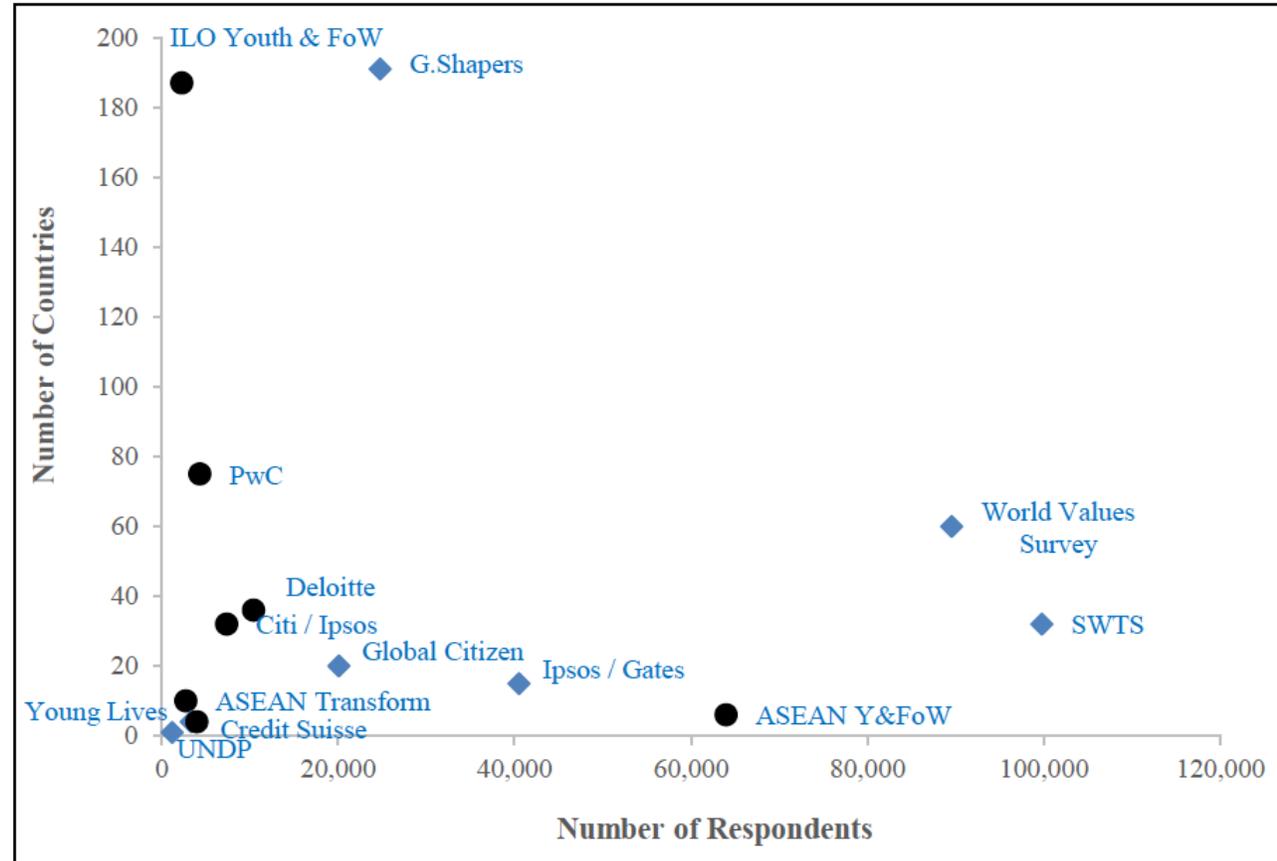
Source: Authors' adaption of conceptual framework by Boateng and Löwe, 2018



YOUTH ASPIRATIONS AND THE FUTURE OF WORK



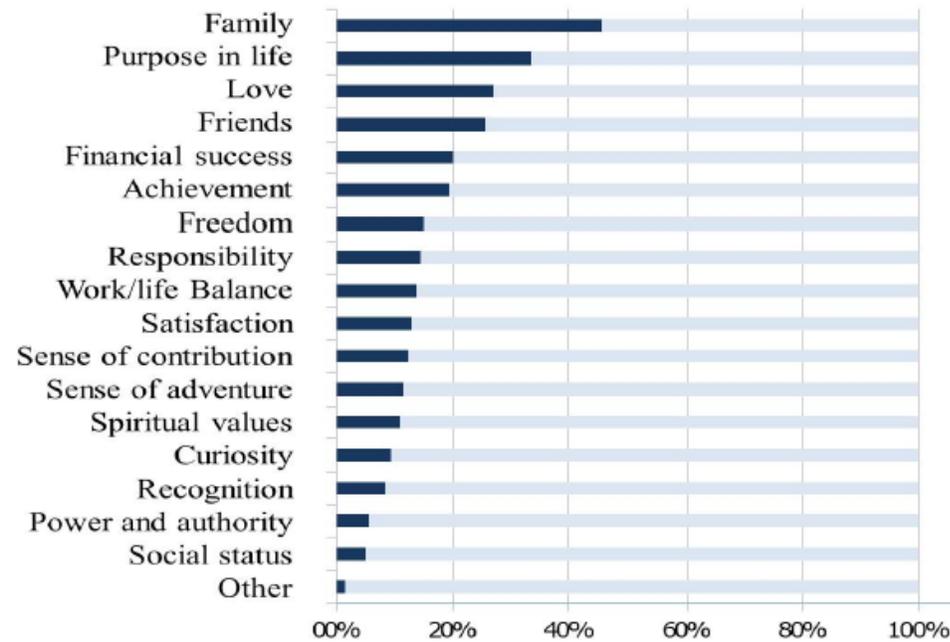
Surveys: youth aspirations



Family, purpose, love

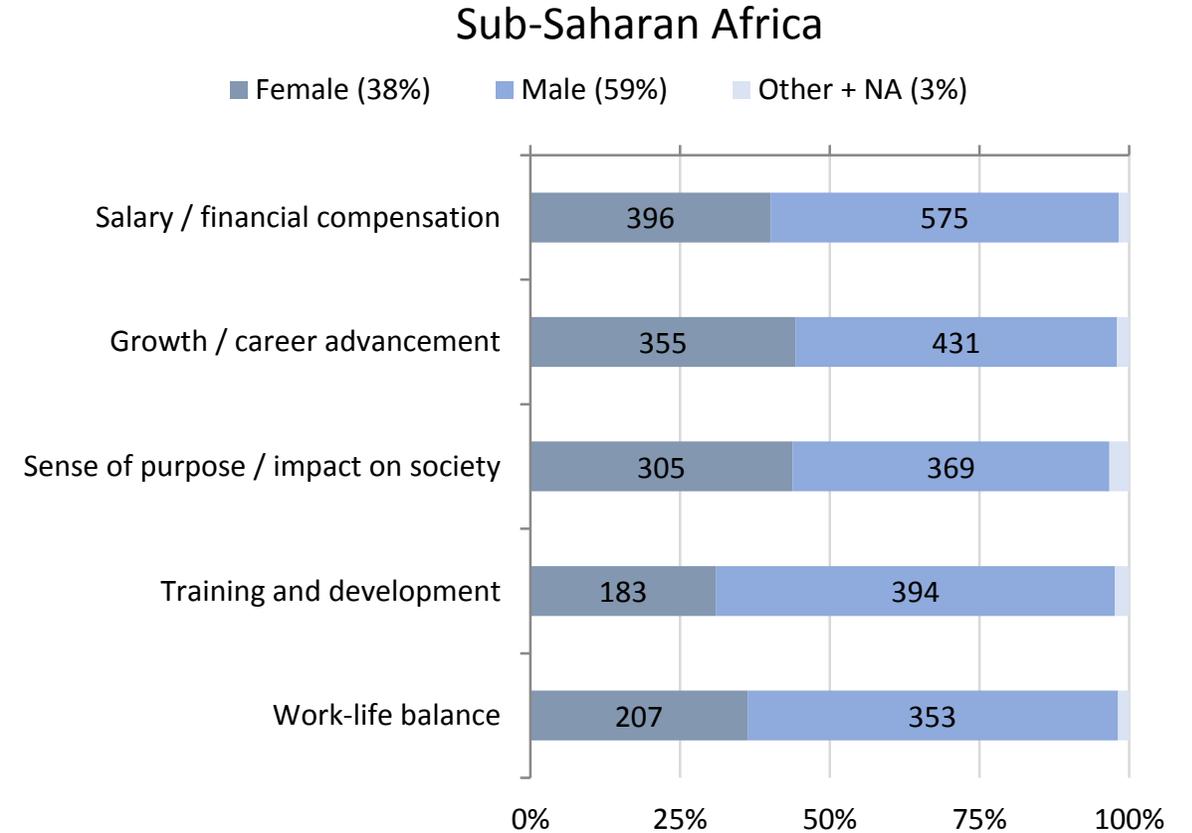
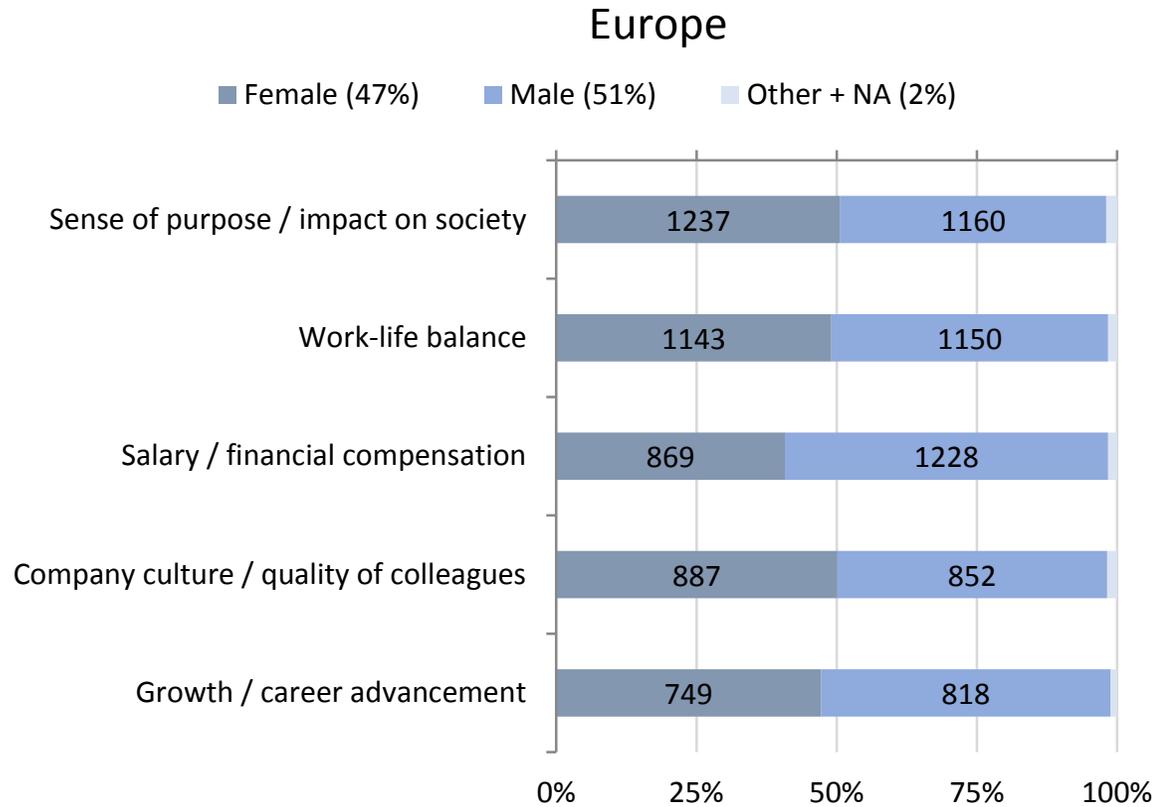
Figure 6.9. What Motivates Youth Today?

Which 3 motives (both internal and external) drive you the most in life?



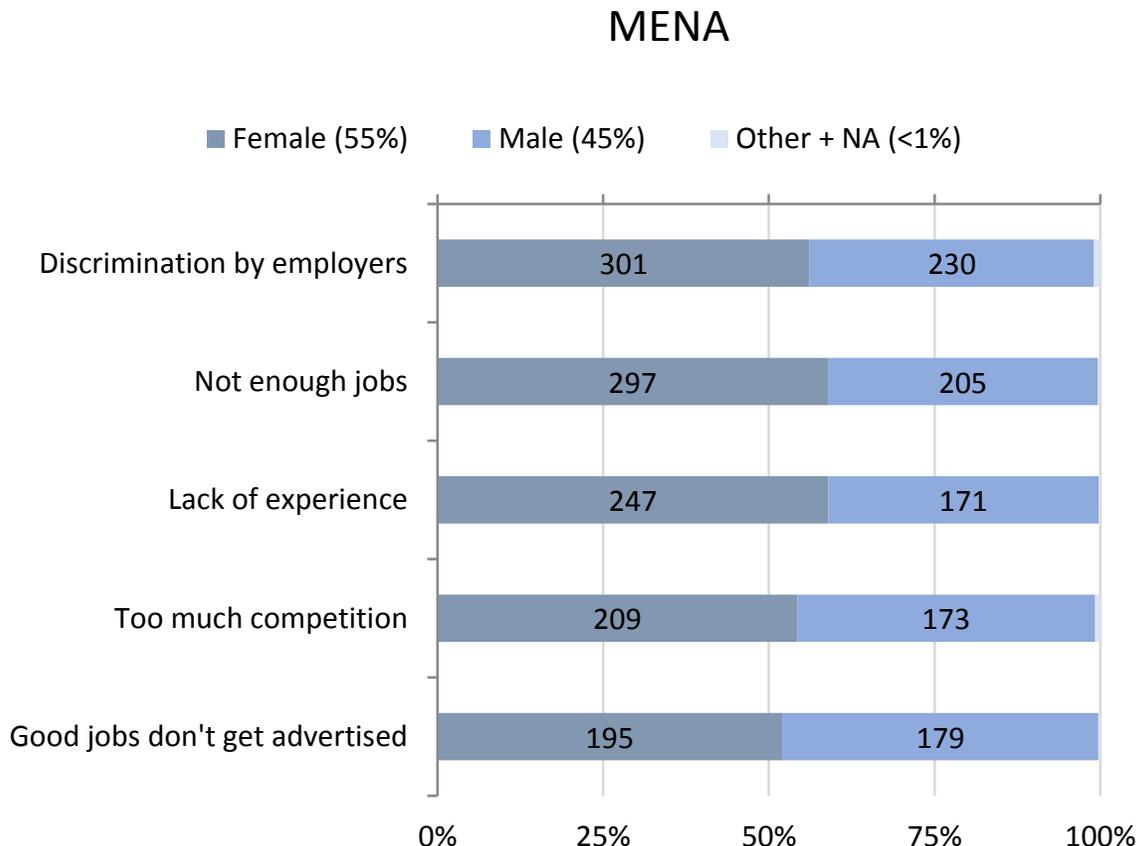
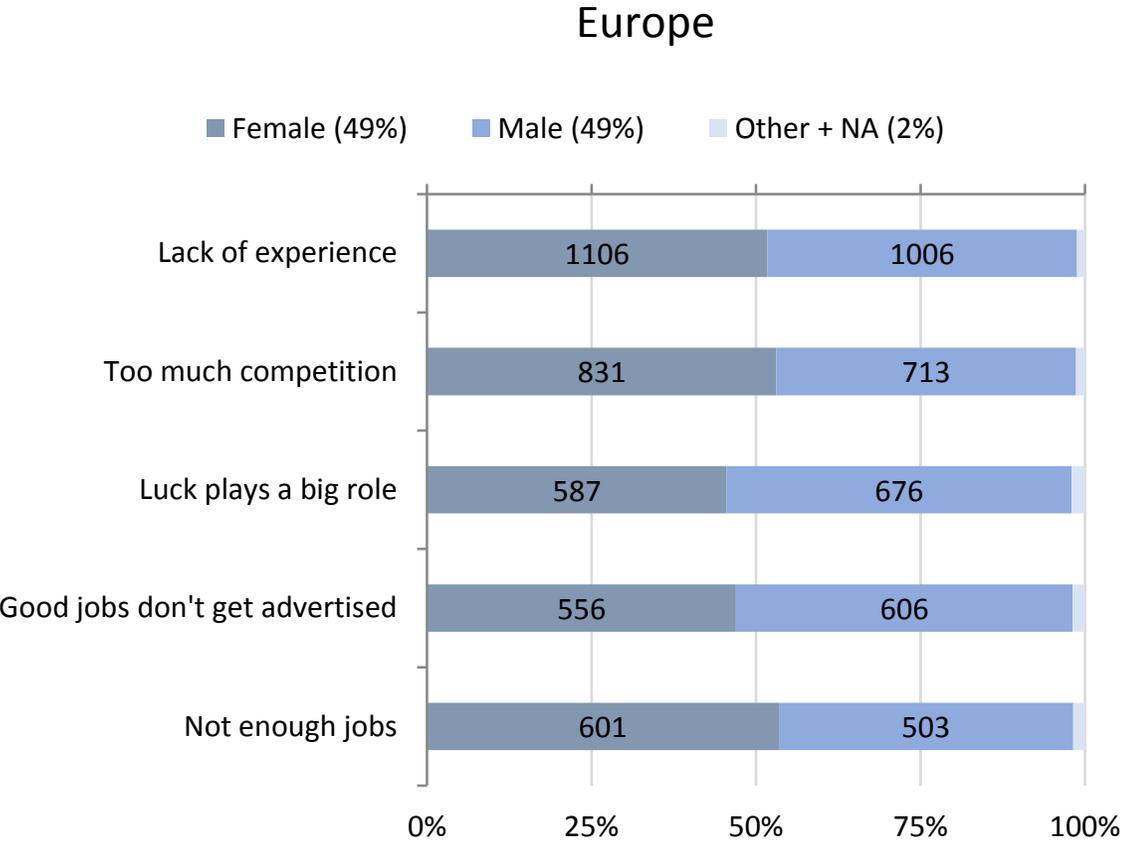
Source: YouthSpeak, powered by AIESEC.

What are the three most important criteria for considering job opportunities?



Source: Own elaborations based on Global Shapers Survey (2017).

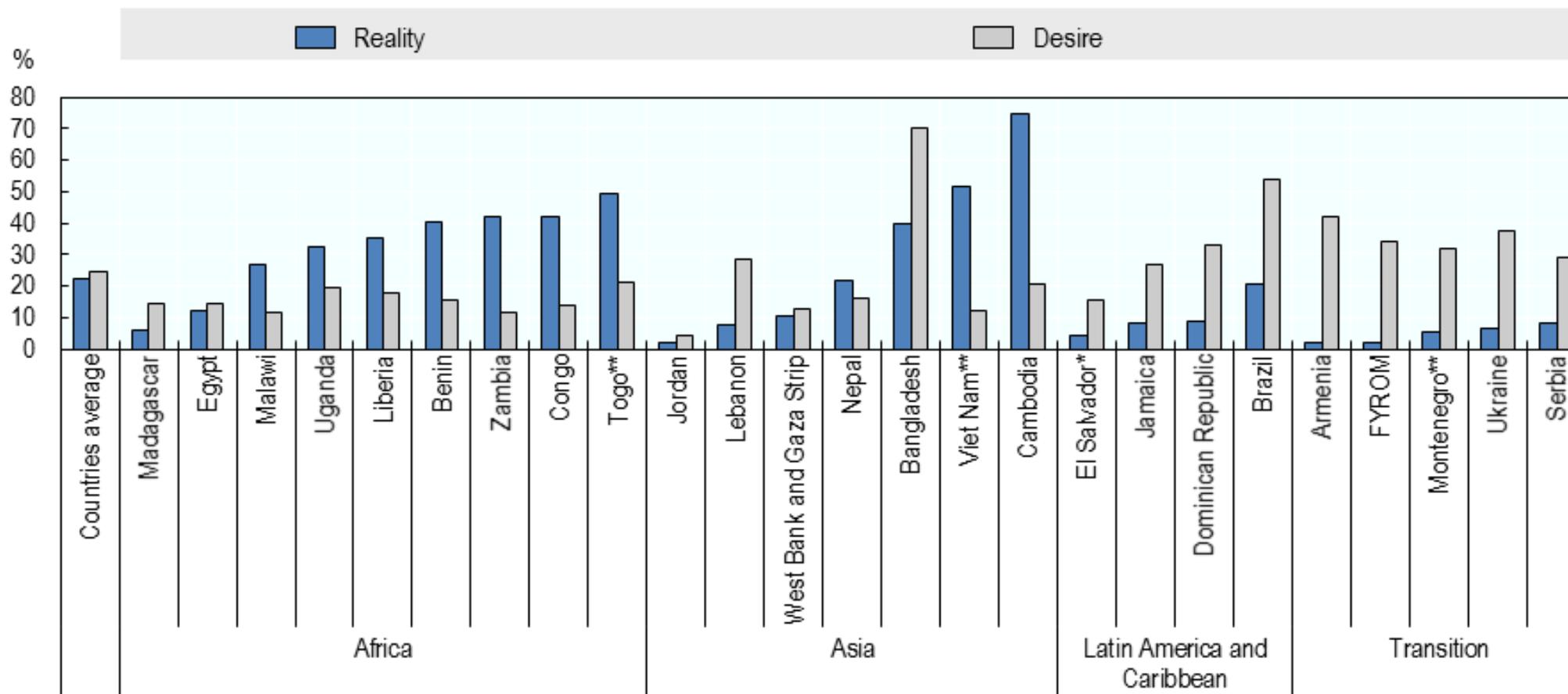
Biggest concerns about job prospects when applying for a job?



Source: Own elaborations based on Global Shapers Survey (2017).

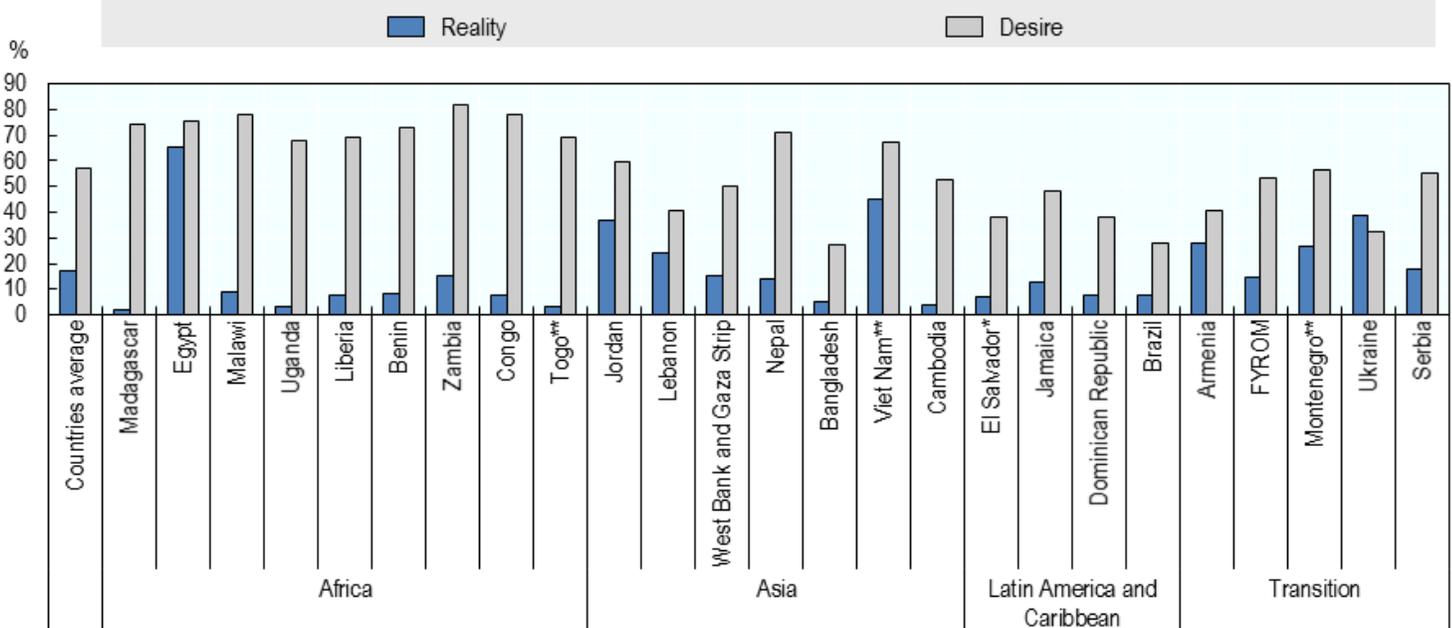
How do aspirations match with labour demand?

Panel A: Self-employment

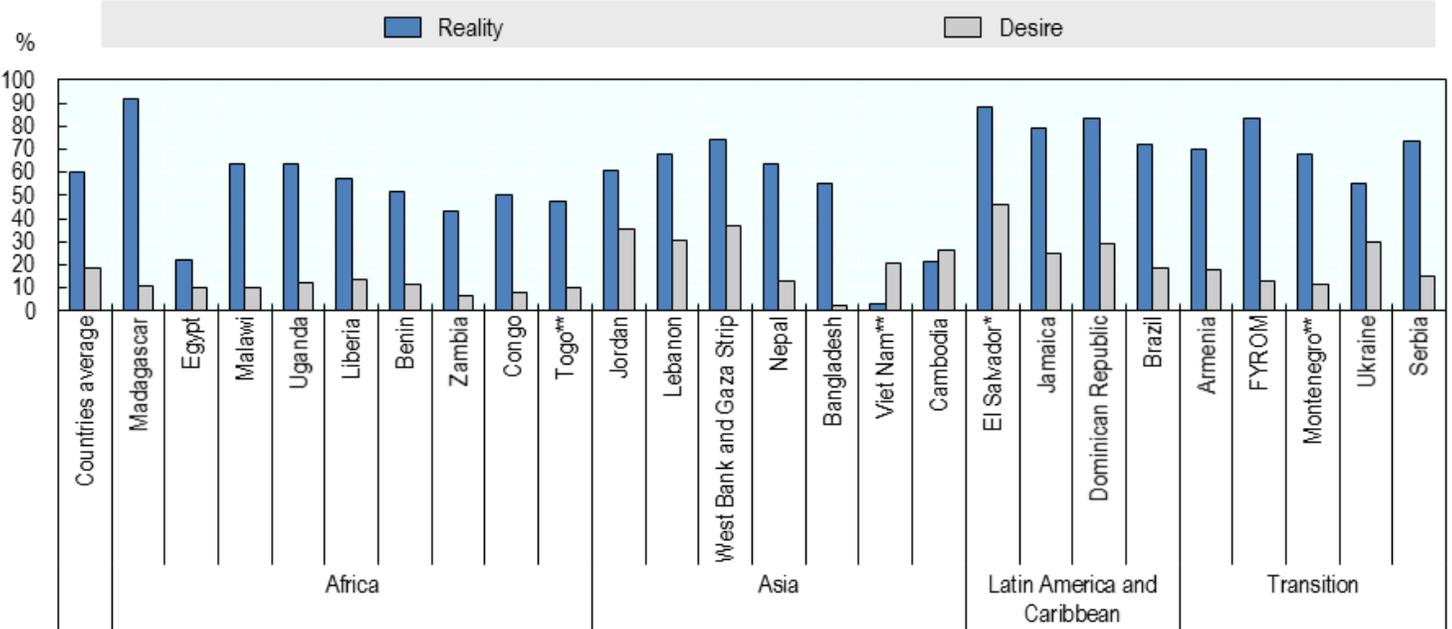


Source: Figure excerpted from OECD (2017). OECD's calculations are based on SWTS 2012-2015 data.

Panel B: Public sector

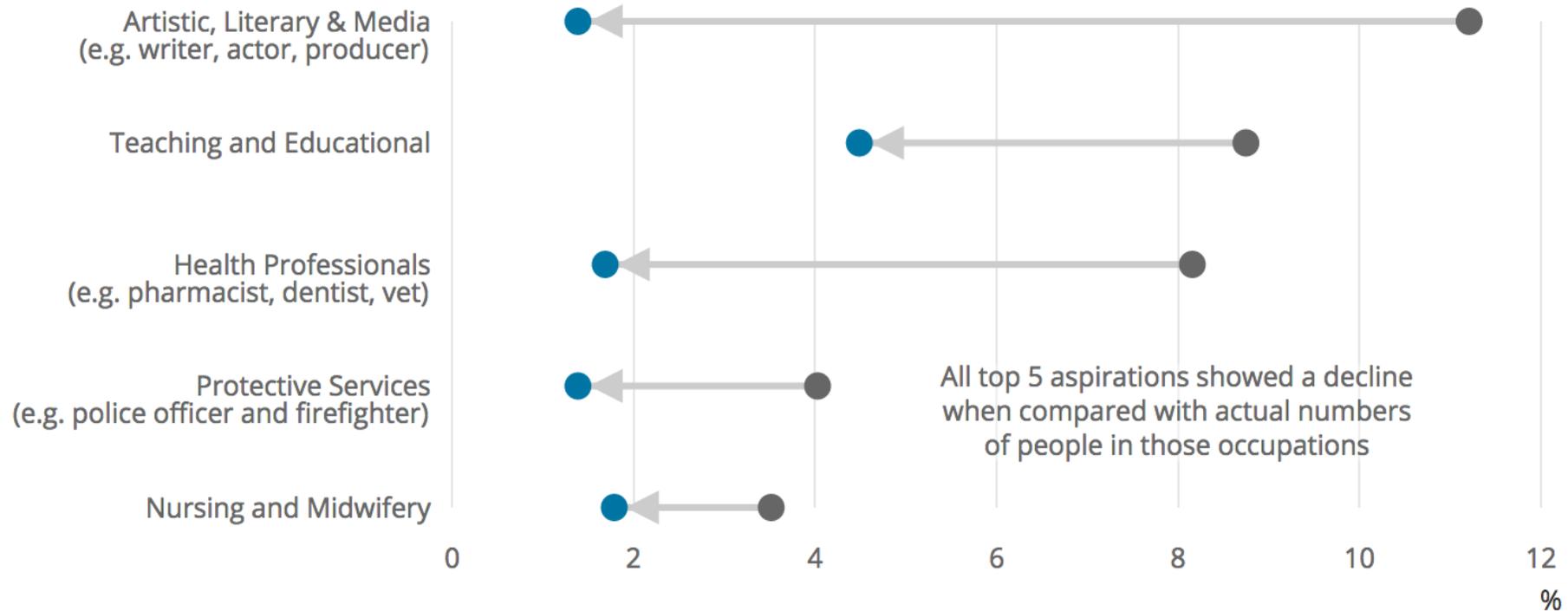


Panel C: Private sector



Aspiration failure (UK)

- What did 16 to 21 year olds want to be?
- What 22 to 29 year olds do those jobs?





YOUTH ASPIRATIONS AND THE FUTURE OF WORK



A black and white photograph of four young adults sitting in a field. From left to right: a man with short hair and a beard, a man with glasses and a beard, a woman with long hair wearing a scarf and holding a shovel, and a man wearing a beanie. They are all smiling or looking towards the camera. The background shows trees and a fence.

Thank you.

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