

“Rural youth assisting Macedonia in EU integration”



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Project partners:



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A 2.2

EU education programs

On January 29th and February 05th, 2019, workshops for EU Education programs were held in Shtip and Strumica as a part of the activity A.2.2 from the project "Rural Youth assisting Macedonia in EU Integration". The target beneficiaries were NGOs, students from high schools and universities as well as teachers and professors from East and South-east region of Macedonia. The vast possibilities of the EU program ERASMUS+ were elaborated in details by the presenters from the National Agency for Mobility and EU Educational Programs. They presented ERASMUS+ program including modules for academic education, high school level education, vocational education, mobility (student's exchange), trainings for teachers as well as projects for innovative practice, youth dialogue etc.

The presenters also described the application methods and ways to cover the expenses for participation and answered to all of the questions by the audience of almost 200 participants on both events. After the first part of the event, participants who already utilized the benefits of the ERASMUS+ program gave short presentations on their experience, results and the following work on sustainability of the programs effects in our country.

The event was organized with assistance of the local organization Youth Club from Shtip and CELOR from Radovich.



03.06.2019

A.4.1.

Workshop for networking of young people from the east and south-east planning region

On March 6, 2019 in the Sirius Hotel a workshop was held for representatives of non-governmental organizations from the eastern and southeast regions in order to define common problems and proposals for solutions that are important for young people. During the implementation of the project, the need for networking of young people i.e. youth and other existing NGOs was confirmed, as a way to include them in the efforts for Macedonia's integration into the EU and on the society in general. Therefore, the workshop focused on the goals and activities of the existing umbrella organizations at the national level, namely the National Youth Council of Macedonia (NYCM) and the Coalition of youth organizations SEGA, which represent national platforms for youth organizations committed to lobbying for needed changes in the legislation, supporting youth activism, access to information and youth participation, as well as the organization Youth Work Union (SRM), which aims to regulate and standardize youth work, support for youth workers and raising public awareness about the importance of youth work. Also, the participants were presented with the criteria for full and associate membership in these networks and the benefits from it.

In addition to the networks at the national level, the offices of regional importance for the youth were promoted, including the Youth Club Shtip, which works in the areas of health and social issues, development of volunteerism and youth activism, culture and art; as well as the regional office in Stip of the "Civic Resource Center" that exists for capacity building and financial and institutional support for small non-governmental organizations.

The workshop resulted in the signing of a joint proposed and accepted declaration for networking, i.e. creating a regional platform for joint action with the obligation to monitor, identify and translate the needs of youth in coordinated action to achieve maximum effects. For the beginning, a list of recommendations from all present organization was created to be delivered to different stakeholders in the east and southeast region.



06.03.2019

A.5.1

Small community actions of rural youth and youth CSOs

On March 6, 2019 the action “With youth green action to healthier environment” as part of the project “Youth from the rural areas for Macedonia’s integration into the EU” was held in Strumica. The activity was carried out by the association Horti Eko from Strumica in cooperation with the students from the school “Dimitar Vlahov”. The green action consisted of planting evergreen and deciduous trees in the school yard and the dormitory.

The goal of the action was to plant and cultivate public surfaces, but also to send a message to its classmates and youth for the improvement of the environment. “Such, dedicated and planned planting of trees has multiple effects and far-reaching benefits not only for the greening of school yards, but also for educating and encouraging the eco-awareness among young people,” said Professor Tome Timov. The idea is for pupils to take care of the trees themselves, and thus to acquire habits to preserve the environment in which they live and act by replicating similar ideas and eco practices. A total of 36 trees were planted. With this action, the youth encouraged all stakeholders in the municipality and the citizens for replication and implementation of the idea in order to establish sustainability.

For video clip please click: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fFQjXaD5yo>



16.03.2019

A.5.1

Small community actions of rural youth and youth CSOs

On March 16, 2019, the NGO "Magic & Logic Marketing" and students from the agricultural secondary school "Dimitar Vlahov" from Strumica, with the help of the project "Rural youth assisting Macedonia in EU integration", erected greenhouses in the school economy of this center as part of the action "Through practical skills to high quality staff".

In this way, students were introduced to practical skills and new technological tools in crop production. Through practical teaching, young people can be better prepared to develop their own business after schooling. School professors believe that young people in the country have theoretical knowledge, but through the educational process they lack practical skills.

Such activities contribute to the enhanced cooperation of the youth and the business sector in the area of agriculture and rural economy in Strumica, whereby they will be more competitive in the labor market. The skills accumulated with the practice will make students from Strumica more adaptable and ready for the labor market.

For video clip please click:

<https://www.facebook.com/RuralYouthEU/videos/384428275444895/?t=7>



20-25.03.2019

A.5.1

Small community actions of rural youth and youth CSOs

On March 20, 22 and 25th 2019, as a part of the project activity for encouraging youth activism, the citizen association “Armonia” from Vinica organized a football and ping pong tournament in Vinica. The organizer registered 16 teams in the futsal and 8 individual competitors in the ping pong tournament. The event triggered great interest among the young population, and were held in the sports hall of “SOU Vanco Prke” in front of an audience of 200-250 young people from Vinica and its surroundings. In addition to the procurement of sports equipment and cocktails, which were covered by the funds from the EU-funded project “Rural youth assisting Macedonia in EU integration” project, for the organization of events, the young people from the association Armonia and the students showed great youth activism and volunteerism in an initiative to provide additional funds for the rewards, space, sound system and promotion of the tournament. The activity contributed to social inclusion, raising the sport spirit and increasing the motivation among young people.

For video clip please click: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veRhBdz6DsE>



22.03.2019

A.5.1

Small community actions of rural youth and youth CSOs (Bio fertilizer)

On March 22, 2019, the Center for Local Development from Radovis CELOR together with the students of SOU Kosta Susinov introduced a system for composting and production of their own organic fertilizer within the school through composting. The activity is part of the project "Rural Youth assisting Macedonia in EU integration" financed by the EU, and implemented by CNVP Macedonia and the Rural Development Network of the Republic of Macedonia. Through this activity, appropriate tools and instruments for work were provided which would help the educational process and practical education of the students about the treating the organic waste and protecting the environment. These are simple measures that provide useful solutions for reducing waste and transforming it in bio-fertilizer that can be used for their own needs when planting and arranging plants in the school yard. The composting initiative came from a group of students from the so-called "Study circle" that was formed within the framework of the school "Kosta Susinov", assisted by the association CELOR and under the mentorship of the professor of biology who will follow the whole composting process. Such pilot activity will give a positive example in raising public awareness about proper waste management and environmental protection as well as involving young people in creative initiatives to address community problems.

For video clip please click:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oucd3-0navc>



A.4.2.

Promotion of the platform for young people from the rural areas of the east and south-east planning region

On April 16 and 23, 2019, in the municipal halls of Stip and Strumica, workshops were held to promote the established youth platform for networking and cooperation and the declaration signed by 13 non-governmental organizations in order to monitor, identify and translate the needs of youth in coordinated actions which will increase the cooperation of the NGOs with the municipalities and other local stakeholders. The platform is wide open for members and ideas to define the most appropriate form of joint actions.

The non-governmental organizations, winners of the awards for local actions for youth activism actively participated on the events for promotion of the platform. They presented their organizations as well as short video articles related to the implementation of the initiatives for youth activism i.e. composting in Radovis by the NGO CELOR, raising greenhouses for gardening production in Strumica by the NGO Horti Eko, planting of trees also in Strumica by the NGO Magic & Logic Marketing, as well as organization of youth tournament in futsal and





ping pong in Vinica, organized by the Scout association Armonia. During the implementation of project activities, the participants identified a number of needs related to improving the lives of youth from rural areas. Through an appropriate presentation, they were presented to the participants, after which a discussion was opened about additional needs and recommendations to the institutions of the government, and non-governmental organizations. Also, the national rural parliament was presented as another option for networking and raising the voice of the rural population and their influence on development policies.

Recommendations created by young people from rural areas in eastern and southeastern Macedonia

During the implementation of the project, over 200 recommendations from young people from secondary schools and civil society organizations were collected and processed towards more relevant institutions such as the government, municipalities, Agency for Youth and Sport, Ministry of Education and Science, civil society organizations, Employment Agency and the schools. For more information click here <http://ruralnet.mk/mr-publications/preporakikreirani-od-mladi-od-ruralnite-sredini-voistochna-i-jugoistochna-makedonija/>

Info graphic on the results of the project

About the course of the project, the results of the activities, the lessons learned and the summarized recommendations, a short info graphic with basic data was produced.

For more info <http://ruralnet.mk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Infografik.pdf>

A.5.3.

The voice of Rural Youth in Macedonia

On May 29, 2019 in Hotel Continental in Skopje the last interactive event of the project was held, which was attended by the young people who were part of the training for trainers at the beginning of the project, all organizations that had some role in the project implementation, high school teachers, youth organizations and representatives from municipalities and public organizations.

At the event all of the project activities and the lessons learned were presented. Also, the participants were introduced with the summarised recommendations of youth from the two regions that as a result of the activities. Special attention was paid to promotion of the Manual for youth activism prepared by the youth expert Antonio Danilovski. The manual is the product of the project and is a real guide to help facilitators, trainers and experts working on youth activism, to disseminate and implement programs for young people who are interested in making a change in their municipality, city and country.

The event was enriched with representatives with the project partners from the rural development networks of Serbia and Croatia. They presented examples of implemented projects for youth and actions for youth activism i.e. for advocacy and lobbying in their region through which they animate the local population, which faces same or similar problems with the population in the two target regions in Macedonia.





The representative of the Youth club from Stip and project partner, Dragana Mirkovic, elaborated the sustainability of the project through the platform created by signing the declaration for cooperation of the organizations from the eastern and south-eastern region. It was followed by a discussion on targeting the youth and the importance of persistence in advocating their interests. In the end, the project manager Saso Petrovski awarded acknowledgments for participation and selfless contribution in the implementation of the project to the organizations CELOR from Radovich, Youth Club from Stip, Horti Eko from Strumica, the National Agency for Mobility and Education, and the youngest activist and participant in the project Slobodancho Gorgiev from Vinica.

The event was moderated by Biljana Vasilevska-Trajkovska, representative of the National Youth Council of Macedonia.

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