

Lessons learned and recommendations

- The capacity of CSOs in East-Southeast Macedonia is poor, mainly represented by few people in organizations.
- There are no any bigger CSOs with significant number of members in it, representing interests of youth population.
- There are no sufficient calls on local level to engage ideas for youth activism.
- **Support capacity strengthening and creating social actions of CSOs/youth activists by directing more financial resources from municipalities, rural development programs and other available programs.**

- Encouragement of young people to become members and actively participate in CSO sector is missing.
- **Increase promotion of the mission of the CSO sector in local communities.**

- The national youth networks also struggle with poor capacities of CSOs in East-Southeast Macedonia.
- The current structures in municipalities (so called youth councils) are not recognized by youth population as leading force in streaming the dialogue among youth and local policy makers.
- **Protect the youth councils from political ownership.**
- **Have transparent open calls for members of the municipality youth councils.**

- Young people value positive if they are treated as grown person and their opinion is taken as equal. They are eager to provide comments and recommendations and propose solutions for shaping their future. Young people prefer to participate on events where proactive participation is required such as workshops, forums etc.
- **Cooperation among the stakeholders who are implementing relevant actions. Maintain frequent communication between CSOs and young people for opportunities to participate on events and influence creation of better youth policies.**

- Young people are eager to volunteer in social/community actions.
- The non formal education shall be promoted more among young people.
- **The career counselling structures should be utilized to promote and introduce non-formal education among students as a toll for their preparedness for future careers.**

- On two occasions the project has experienced negative influence of everyday politics, once for the referendum and second time for presidential elections. Young people are too much exposed on every day politics and that reflects to relations among them.

- **The regional platform for youth issues shall not be established as legal entity. Connecting various CSO's from East and Southeast to focus on issues of rural youth population is a first step. The CSO's that are most experienced and with sufficient personal capacity should take leadership in building coalitions among CSO's and influence local policy makers and regional development agencies. Improvement of internal communication and identifying of common issues are priority actions. The process of establishment of the regional platform should be left to the CSOs to lead it, get familiar with and adjust themselves to each other in order to make adequate decisions in accordance with the youth needs.**
- **National Youth Networks may also play a role in supporting this initiative. Organizing annual youth fairs in different regions (one event for 2-3 regions) may be stimulating. These can be supported by Centre for Regional Development and municipalities.**

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RURAL YOUTH ASSISTING MACEDONIA IN EU INTEGRATION



Building a Greener Economic Environment



RURAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA



HRVATSKA MREŽA ZA RURALNI RAZVOJ



Network for Rural Development of Serbia



14 Activities

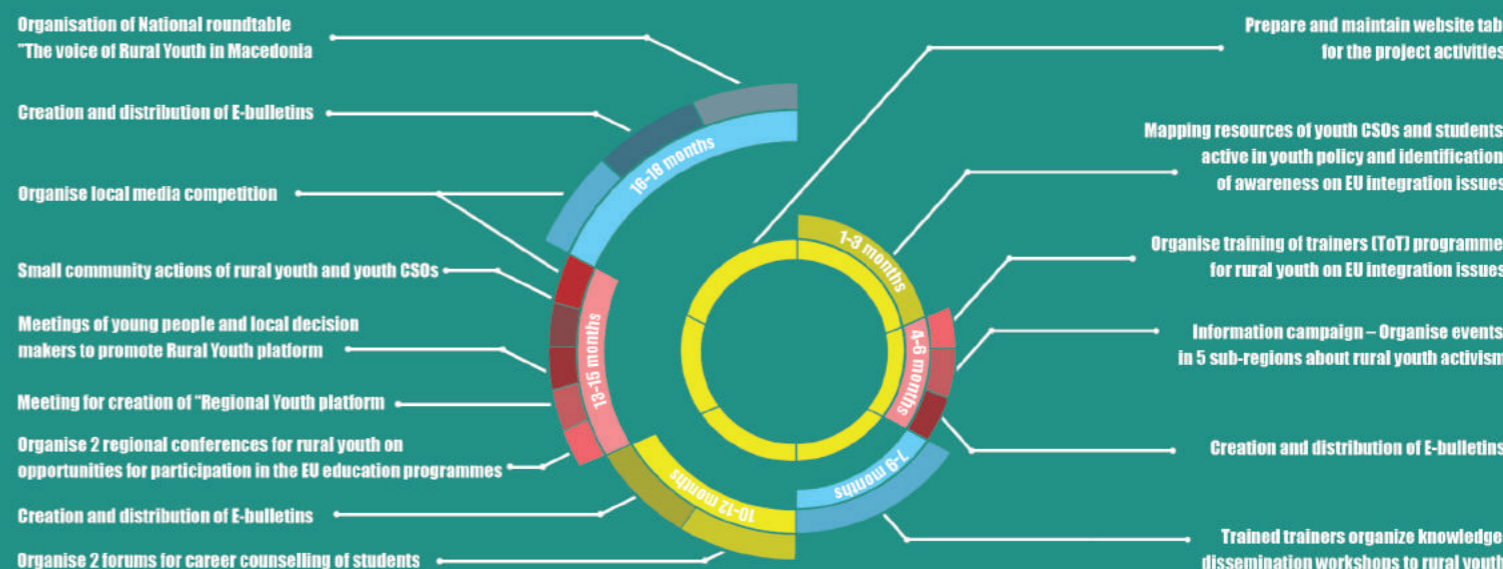
9 Events
11 Training
4 Forums
1 Research
1 Toolkit
3 E-bulletins

1847 People directly involved in the activities

972 female
875 male

INVOLVED 57 civil society organizations
13 institutions
28 primary and secondary schools

REACH 5144
482





6 of 10

young people support the EU Integration

1 of 10

young people is satisfied with the decision making process



310 responses gathered 16 interviews with CSOs



only 3 in 50 high school students are involved in youth organizations

222 participants

5 high schools

5 municipalities

250+ recommendations

11 institution targeted

15 rural youth trainers educated



3 days workshop



3 trainers
2 different countries

3 levels



33 exercises

78 pages



7 topics and 18 sub-topics



3 e-bulletins



1 web site

140 participants



5 workshops in 5 cities

8 exercises per workshop



100+ recommendations for institutions

Declaration signed by

13 organizations



3 national youth networks presented

129 participants
21 organizations
9 high schools
6 private companies



1 of 10 high schools collaborates with private company

4 youth actions presented

4 videos presented



13 minutes total video

1 youth platform presented

4 actions created 750 young people involved



24 questions asked
182 participants



6 expert speakers



2 sport tournaments



10 composters built



1 eco action
1 greenhouse built



Youth & **CSO's** recommendations

To Government

- Improve cultural integration and social life
- Open more jobs and provide professional training for young people
- Improve the environment and living standards for youth in rural areas
- Greater dedication and prevention to brain drain
- Disregard political influence for employment of public administration
- Create a fair Youth Law

To Ministry of Education and Science

- More opportunities for student scholarships
- Introducing more foreign languages in the curriculum
- Conduct interactive lectures
- Improving schools infrastructure
- Further training of the teaching staff
- Introduce practical classes and provide paid practice at private companies
- Improve conditions in student's dorms
- **Introduction of dual education - formal and non-formal**
- **Review the needs and efficiency of the existing curriculum**
- **Adaptat education to the real needs in rural areas**
- **Reduce the costs of schooling for young people**

To Agency for Youth and Sport

- Improve conditions for sport in the municipalities
- Reconstruct Local Youth Councils
- Encourage young people to become involved in civic organisations
- **Open youth offices in rural areas in cooperation with the municipalities**
- **Organise sports days in all municipalities**
- **More public spaces for socialising young people**
- **Strengthen the capacities of Youth councils from East and South-East Macedonia**

To Municipality

- Improve school transport for students
- Include young people from rural areas in municipal activities
- Improving social and cultural life of youth in municipalities
- Invest in new infrastructure and introduce youth culture urbanism
- Resolve illegal dumps
- Activate Local Youth Councils
- **Inform rural population about possibilities for applying at various supporting programs**
- **Initiate school networking to exchange experiences between students and teachers**
- **Engage young people in volunteering in public institutions**
- **Open youth cultural centers**



Youth & **CSO's** recommendations

To Youth organizations / Civic organizations

- **Greater non-formal education for young people**
- **Enable training for young people in other EU countries**
- **Youth training to increase awareness of ecology**
- **Educate young people for their rights and obligations**
- **Improve and increase the cooperation with civil society organizations from EU**

To Schools

- **Organise more non-formal educational events and workshops**
- **Educate professors on various forms of discriminations**
- **Establish cooperation with companies to upgrade feral practice**

To Employment agency

- **Introduce greater number of soft skills training**
- **Informing, training and getting acquainted with the labor market offer**

To Parents

- **Encourage children to be independent and express and hold to their views**
- **Encourage young people and support their decisions so to be recognized as valuable members of society**