



Our network on



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YOUTH ALLIANCE
One of the recipients of Institutional
Grant from Civica Mobilias

ID of YAK

Name of the organization:
Youth Alliance - Krusevo

Year of founding: **1999**

Headquarter: **Krusevo**

Branch Office: **Skopje**

Vision:
Active involvement of young people in all spheres of social life and their influence on decision making processes at local, national and regional levels.

Values and principles:
Involvement, democracy, equal chances, openness, solidarity, tolerance, understanding, mutual support and collaboration.

President:
Metodija Stojceski

Author and Editor:
Klimentina Gjorgjioska



Establishment of the Youth Alliance:

We got the idea to form YA in 1999. In the period when in Krusevo (the town where YA was founded) the only form of organization for young people were the political parties. Sports clubs and community youth organizations that were active in the previous period due to various reasons simply disappeared. The result of this situation was the presence of political division and tension among young people in this specific multi-ethnic and multi-confessional environment. Along with several like-minded people with previously modest experience of activism in NGOs we wanted to try to change this situation, to create a platform that would offer an alternative to young people for social engagement beyond political parties. The idea was to enable active involvement and influence the decision-makers at all levels (local, regional and national) through a purely civil form of association where youth activism is the only cause. We accepted it as a challenge and I think that we are contributing to society, making small but significant social changes.

As time passes by, this organization is growing and developing, making its own history and certainly undergoing changes. We are standing on our decision to not draw away from the originally set mission and vision which are guidelines for policy making in the organization.

Mission: Active participation of the youth in all spheres of societal life.

Vision: Active youth in the social living.

My motivation to be active in a civic organization.

My initial personal motivation... hmm... interesting question ☺ I should recall, since it was about 20 years ago. Yes, the possibility for social activism without boundaries out of the control of political subjects and the possibility of free expression and creativity was what motivated me to become active in several NGOs and to be one of the founders of the Youth Alliance. The open opportunity for social activism and the encouragement for social changes, still after 20 years is my personal motivation and challenge. Besides the professional engagement I perceived myself and I still do find myself in the NGO community.

– Metodija Stojceski, president of YAK



YAK description in one sentence: YAK is a driving force of positive changes and extraordinary refreshment in the grayness of the society in which the young people live in.

For me YAK is: One cohesive family with completely open cards on the table, continuously working for a common cause in a positive and energetic atmosphere.

Why you are in YAK: I didn't want my every day life to be filled with meaningless conversations; because the non-formal education was a major challenge for me; because I wanted to upgrade myself on a higher level; because the values and mission of the organization coincide entirely with mine; because I wanted to travel and meet new people; and most importantly, because I want to make a change in my society. – Marija Arsoška, member of YAK's team



YAK description in one sentence: YAK is youth organization that brings together young people by encouraging them to be active and conscientious citizens and thus contribute to the society.

For me YAK is: Constant noise of innovative ideas, rush of project activities for and with young people, creative chaos.

Why you are in YAK: Members of YAK captured me with their enthusiasm to make the world better place. ☺ – Sanja Nikolic, member of YAK's team



YAK description in one sentence: Youth Alliance by its self is a challenge, constant development and an opportunity for every young person to learn, to get knowledge and to find his rightful place in the community.

For me YAK is: Youth Alliance for me is all the International people, friendly faces and practical experiences. It is a life learning school, challenges and a solution-oriented environment.

Why you are in YAK: I joined this organization because as a young person I really stand for being a young leader who wants to be part of the decision making processes and forming youth policies. Well, Youth Alliance - Krusevo is representing this vision of mine! – Fani Angeleska, volunteer at YAK.

1

SWITCH ON: PARTICIPATION MODE

Public debates focused on youth participation

Active and progressive youth is the idea that the Youth Alliance- Krusevo is trying to turn it into reality through various trainings and projects.

Switch On: Participation Mode is one of those projects where the emphasis is placed on youth participation. During April, YAK realized about 10 interviews in six cities around Macedonia, where the interviewees were speaking about youth activism and youth involvement in decision-making processes in the society.

The next steps of the project were the public debates, whose focus was again the youth participation. In Krusevo, Bitola, Sveti Nikole, Kavadarci, Skopje and Kumanovo was realized one debate with speakers, who know well the local context and together with the youth were discussing what are the reasons for the non-existing youth participation and how can we stimulate and strengthen it.

The discussions lead to the conclusion that the young people in the above six cities have a real need of debate, they perceive the youth participation only through the prism of party activism and not societal, which means that we need to change the way we are looking at this process.



KRUSEVO

In Krusevo, the topic we chose to work on was "The Basic of youth's participation; the role of family and education". Given that Krusevo is a small town where family values and traditions are respected, we decided to debate on how family affects youth participation, if it stimulates it or it puts barriers to young people to be active and responsible.

The representative of the Local Youth Council Biljana Stojanoska spoke about the impact of young people to decision-makers and how can the young people can influence the adoption of youth policies and programs through the LYC.

Metodija Stojceski, as a longtime civic activist spoke about the formal and informal association of young people in Krusevo and the processes of youth activism over the years.

Maia Stojanoska, representative of the Institute for Human Rights spoke about the mechanisms

that young people can use in order to pursue their rights and needs.

During the whole debate, the problem with the migration was present. According to the youth in Krusevo, that is the biggest problem. They do not see any opportunity and perspective that would make stay in the town.

BITOLA

The debate in BITOLA, focused on formal and informal education and how can youth participation influence the employment opportunities. According to the participants the formal educational system in Macedonia is not appropriate to the needs and does not stimulate the youth participation, but the informal education opens many options for participation. According to the conclusion the biggest problem is lack of information and interest of the young people. But informal education can stimulate young people to actively engage themselves in the democratic processes of society.



SVETI NIKOLE

Sveti Nikole - The youth in this environment are not familiar with the process of youth participation and activism. Given that it is a small community, there are a small number of organizations and institutions offering opportunities for youth activism. The young people there have also a strong desire to leave the town, because it offers no opportunity for progress.

KAVADARCI

In Kavadarci - the debate linked youth participation with social media. The Internet revolution and the emergence of new technologies and social networks can be a very useful tool in the process of integrating young people in society. Even though young people in Kavadarci use social media, they rarely use it to stimulate youth participation. They don't perceive it as a tool for social change. So, it is necessary from primary education to introduce trainings for youth participation and for the key role of youth in the decision-making in their community.

SWITCH ON

PARTICIPATION MODE



SKOPJE

The participants of the debate in the capital think that young people are not really a progressive force but a reflection of the society in which they live. According to them, the young people have to know why is necessary and what is the reason behind their participation in order to become real youth protagonists. The young people need to be aware that there are different forms of youth participation and that all forms are acceptable. The participants stressed that the party action is always political, but political action is not necessarily a party action. Young people must be critical and aware of the social processes. Young people can and should initiate smart revolt, but also they have to realize that everything that happens is their responsibility as citizens, it is necessary to increase the individual responsibility.

КУМАНОВО

Kumanovo - In a multi-ethnic environment, the debate focused on youth participation and key elements. Furthermore, in rural areas the youth participation is on a very low level. Young people do not know what youth participation is therefore they cannot be part of it. The change must occur first in them, so that they can be able to act and influence positive social change. One of the conclusions was that it is needed intensive work on unity and coexistence of ethnic groups to increase youth participation, given that there is division and narrowness in the society.

The project is financially supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.



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ENTER SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**Workshops for education
and development of
social entrepreneurship**

Direct encouragement of the development of social enterprises among young people through their education and raising awareness of the opportunities and the importance of the concept of social entrepreneurship, focusing on the use of resources from the Pelagonija region. These goals were at the center of the educational workshops on social entrepreneurship, held in Krusevo, Bitola and Prilep, organized by the NGO Youth Alliance-Krusevo.

Each workshop lasted for three days, and each day had a different focus. The first day was intended to familiarize participants with the concept and practice of social entrepreneurship in Macedonia and in the world. The knowledge of the participants about this concept varied depending on the environment. The locating of social problems in the particular community was next. The second day, depending on the interests of the participants, they were grouped to form a business plan to address the identified problem through the concept of social entrepreneurship. The last day, the participants presented their ideas, which were already formulated business plans.

“When we created the concept of the workshops together with Biljana Stojceska, member of the team of trainers, we had a vision to awaken the «sleeping» (unemployed) youth and to encourage them to seize the opportunities offered by social entrepreneurship. Since we both work with young people, we readily joined forces. Biljana with her experience and work in the field of social entrepreneurship, clarified the concept, through presentation of successful examples of social enterprises from home and abroad, while I focused on the economic part and I was obliged to instruct the participants on how to develop a business plan for their ideas for social businesses”, said Dr. Sanja Nikolic, professor at the Faculty of Management at MIT University



KRUSEVO

Young people here at the beginning of the workshop were not at all familiar with social entrepreneurship and somehow manifested resistance and distrust to openly meet each other in the group. There was a part of the participants who were firmly tied to traditional tourism, believing it is the only business option in their town. But, after discussing the social problems, they concluded that the older people in their community are somehow marginalized, their real needs do not concern the institutions or the general population. They realized that they have not identified their community problems that instead they proceed from the interests imposed by the decision makers. As a small town, Krusevo is also a significantly politically polarized society.



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“Someone needs to work every day in Krusevo, to stimulate young people and the population in general. This town’s youth lacks education, inspiration and motivation. If the above are present, there will be an impact, development will follow and Krusevo will exit from the crisis it is facing now”, concludes Biljana Stojceska, trainer of the workshop.

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The youth motivated by the idea of opening a social enterprise in their town, which will have a community benefit, not just profit, elaborated business ideas for the re-opening of FC ‘Pitu Guli’ of Krusevo as a social enterprise, which will offer self-sustainability of the club, but also social benefit to the community. Another interesting business plan concerned the offer of entertainment programs for families, tourists, education, use of local resources, and reducing unemployment and migration in the town as crucial issues that need immediate measures for their solution.

BITOLA

From the realized workshop in Bitola, we came to the conclusion that the young people in this city have dynamics, but also education and inspiration. What they lack is someone to channel, to guide them properly, so their innovative ideas can be supported, but also implemented. Among the participants there was maximum diversity in terms of their profiles. Bitola’s citizens were very well acquainted with social entrepreneurship and aware that they should have it in their community. They identified the problems faced by the population in the city, including the most urgent: the need of clean, unpolluted air and the existence of a good formal educational system. It takes focal points that will continuously work with the community.

The participants of this two workshops have gained a deeper understanding of the concept of social entrepreneurship, have identified problems/needs in their local community as potential opportunities for social enterprises.

The project is financially supported by the US Embassy in Macedonia.

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“Partnership between private and public is needed, in order to exploit all possible resources and to obtain the best results”, said the trainers.

Part of the business ideas of the participants in Bitola are:

- ✓ The opening of special school that will test educational programs tailored to the interests and potentials of the students.
- ✓ Kooperativa “Social Gardens”, which will produce exclusively organic farming.
- ✓ Social Enterprise “Green Paradise” that will offer alternative burial services with bio degradable coffins and trees instead of gravestones place, which will contribute to cleaner air and reduce the cost of the burial services.

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3

EUROPE, MY COUNTRY

Civil research of the Macedonian representatives in the Macedonian Parliament

One of the activities on which the Youth Alliance –Krusevo was intensively working during the month of May, was precisely the realization of the next phase of the project EUROPE, MY COUNTRY. It is a mutual project of four non-governmental organizations of: YAK - Macedonia, V2020- England, TDM2000-Italy and EuroDEMOS -Romania, which is actually the project leader.

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“This month, we started with the implementation of the civil research that evaluates the MPs in the legislative body of the Republic of Macedonia. In the survey we will encompass about 400 participants, who will have a different profile: lawyers, economists., students, architects, unemployed, cultural anthropologists, psychologists, social workers, teachers, doctors, researchers, analysts, journalists, software engineers, nurses”, says Marija Arsoska, project coordinator.

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EUROPE, my country!

Во сите партнер - земји
во моментот се
спроведува граѓанско
истражување за оцена
на активностите на
претставниците во
Европскиот Парламент
(ЕП) за земјите членки
и претставниците
на Европскиот Парламент за
Македонија.
Активностите на
граѓаните



А) Диплома за Граѓанска Благодарност

— за добро познати активности, во корист на заедницата

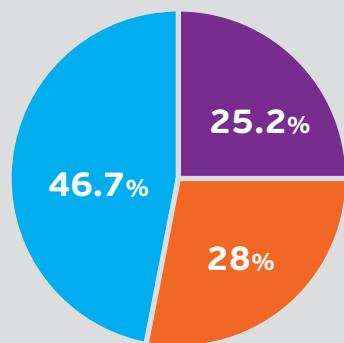


Б) Граѓански Сертификат за Вниманиј

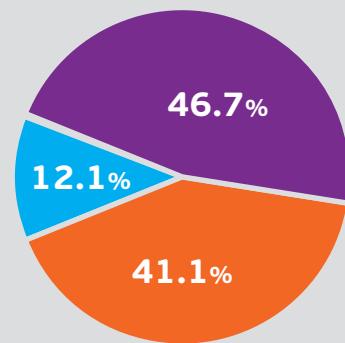
— за негативни активности

Citizens had an opportunity to assess the work of the 123 representatives of the Parliament of the Republic of Macedonia with one of the following certificates:

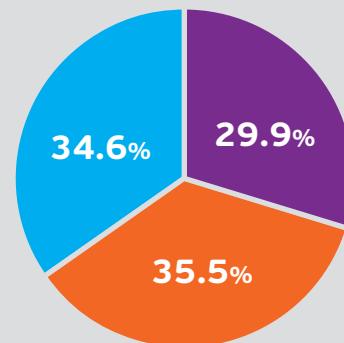
- A) Diploma for Civil Gratitude** - when they know well the MP and they are satisfied with his/her activities for the benefit of the community;
- B) Civil Certificate for Attention** - when they don't know the MP and his/her activities.
- C) Civil Certificate for Sanction** - when they know the MP, but they consider that his/her activities were of negative benefit for the community.



- Civil Certificate for Sanction
- Civil Certificate for Attention
- Diploma for Civil Gratitude



- Civil Certificate for Sanction
- Civil Certificate for Attention
- Diploma for Civil Gratitude



- Civil Certificate for Sanction
- Civil Certificate for Attention
- Diploma for Civil Gratitude

These three pies show the evaluations of three MPs, but the percentages and grades are not final, since the research is still ongoing. The research will result with 123 pies, where each pie is an assessment of the work of each one of the deputies. What percentage of their activities deserve attention, sanction or reward.

The next phase of the project will be the final conference that will take place in June in Skopje, where more details and information regarding the survey will be presented.

The project is financially supported by the EU program- Europe for Citizens.

EUROPE, my country!



Дали знаеш кој е овој парламентарец?



4

YOUTH ALLIANCE

One of the recipients of Institutional Grant from Civica Mobilitas



Youth Alliance – Krusevo this month attended a ceremony which promoted new grants from Civica mobilitas.

On 17th of May, 48 grants were presented, including institutional grants, specific action grants, small action grants and ad hoc grants.

At the ceremony also attended Sybille Suter Tejada, the Ambassador of Switzerland in Macedonia who presented the contracts of all grantees.

“Civil society should be actively involved in the political dialogue and in the development of democratic values and principles,” said the Ambassador Suter Tejada on this occasion.



YAK was one of the civil society organizations - recipient of institutional grant, intended for institutional development and organizational strengthening, so that this organization would be more accessible to their constituents, to young people, but also more active in the development of a better society.

