

**ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF YOUTH POLICIES ON
THE SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL AND
URBAN MUNICIPALITIES IN NORTH MACEDONIA AND
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE LEGAL
FRAMEWORK**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civic organization
Local government	Local government unit
EU	European Union
ZMUMP	Law for youthful participation and youth policies
IPA	European Union Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance
LEAP	Local ecological action plan
LMS	Local Youth Council
LSM	Local youth assembly
MKD	Macedonian Denars
MSPD	Ministry of Social Policy, Demography and Youth
NMSM	National Youth Council of Macedonia
SMR	Youth Work Union
UNDP	The program for development him United nations
CID	Center for Intercultural Dialogue

INTRODUCTION

The young represent significant social resource and bearers of social changes, and their active participation in the processes of adoption of decisions and creation of public policies are important prerequisites for development of a democratic and inclusive society. In this direction, Republic of North Macedonia in 2020 brought The Law for youthful participation and youth policies (ZMUMP), which establishes system of mechanisms and structures for promotion of the position of the young and for their active inclusion in the local and the national decision-making.

The Law predicts more obligations for the units of the local self-government (ELS), among which everything establishment of institutional mechanisms for youthful participation and provision of local services for young people. Among the most important mechanisms everything the nomination of official for youth, the formation of local youth council and local assembly of youth, the establishment of youth centers, as well as the adoption of local strategies and programs for young people. These mechanisms need to contribute for creation of systemic conditions for youthful participation and development of youth policies at local level.

Although The Law establishes clear frame for development of youth policies, its practical implementation in different municipalities in the state everything takes place with different dynamics and with different results. Especially everything set the question for the differences in possibilities and capacities for implementation of the legal ones mechanisms between the bigger ones urban municipalities and smaller and rural municipalities, which often have with limited administrative, institutional and financial resources.

In this context, purpose of this research is to provide insight in the degree of implementation of The Law for youthful participation and youth policies at local and regional level, anyway it identifies the main ones challenges, practices and opportunities for improvement of the system of youthful participation. The research everything focus especially on the differences in the possibilities and conditions for youthful participation in the smaller and rural municipalities in comparison with the bigger ones urban municipalities.

Through interviews with representatives of national institutions, centers for development of the planning regions, units of local self-government, youth centers and civic organizations, research there is for goal to offer analytical insight in the situation with the implementation of the legal ones mechanisms, as well as recommendations for promotion of policies and practices related with young people with a special focus on young people from rural areas.

The findings from this research need to contribute towards better understanding of the practical ones challenges in the implementation of The Law for youthful participation and youth policies in urban and rural areas, as well as towards development of recommendations for promotion of institutional mechanisms and support for the young at local and national level.

METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH APPROACH

This research represents qualitative assessment of the influence from the implementation of the Law for youthful participation and youth policies at the local level in North Macedonia. The main goal of the research was to see everything perceived in the real one degree of establishment and operation of the mechanisms foreseen with the Law, with special focus on the differences between the smaller and rural municipalities opposite the larger and urban municipalities.

The research is everything based on qualitative access through semi-structured interviews with relevant factors which directly participate in the implementation of youth policies at the local and regional level. This access enables collection of deeper information for the practical ones experiences, challenges and opportunities related with implementation of the Law.

Besides the field interviews, research coverage and review of relevant documents, local strategies and institutions practices related with youth policies.

RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The research was implemented in the period from May 2025 to February 2026, through series of field interviews and consultations with representatives of institutions, local self-government, civil organizations (CSOs) and regional developmental centers.

In frames of the process were realized interviews with:

- nominated officials for young in the municipalities,
- mayors and representatives of municipal administrations,
- representatives of local youth councils and local assemblies of young people,
- representatives of youth centers,
- representatives of civil organizations active in the area of youth policies,
- representatives of the centers for development in the planning regions,
- representatives of national institutions and organizations relevant for youth policies.

The interviews were carried out through direct meetings in the field and work meetings with institutional representatives. In frames of the interviews everything was discussed for the degree of implementation of the Law for youthful participation and youth policies, establishment of local mechanisms foreseen with the Law, the financial support for youth policies at the local level, as well as for the main ones challenges and opportunities for promotion of the existing one legal and institutional frame.

SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH

In frames of the research were realized interviews with representatives of the following institutions and organizations:

NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Ministry for social politics, demography and youth (MSPDM)
- National youth advice in Macedonia (NMSM)
- Assembly of the Republic of North Macedonia

CENTERS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PLANNING REGIONS

- Center for development him Southwest planned region
- Center for development him Southeast planned region
- Center for development him Vardarski planned region
- Center for development him Northeast planned region
- Center for development him Skopje planned region
- Center for development him Eastern planned region
- Center for development him Pelagonian planned region

MUNICIPALITIES

- Municipality Ohrid
- Municipality Bitola
- Municipality Chucher Sandevo
- Municipality Center
- Municipality Karbinci
- Municipality Pehchevo
- Municipality Strumica
- Municipality Vasilevo
- Municipality Veles
- Municipality of Tetovo
- Municipality Bogovinje
- Municipality Kumanovo
- Municipality Lipkovo
- Municipality Kavadarci
- Municipality of Gradsko
- Municipality Struga
- Municipality Gostivar
- Municipality of Resen
- Municipality of Vrapchishte
- Municipality of Dolneni

YOUTH CENTERS AND CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

- Youth center Ohrid
- Youth center Tetovo
- Edu center Negrevo
- Union for youth work (SMR)
- Center for research and development (CID) Kumanovo

The scope him the research enable receiving relevant insight in the different ones practices him implementation him The law in different regions and types him municipalities , as well as comparative analysis him the conditions between urban and rural environments .

RESEARCH LIMITATIONS

As with everyone field research process , and in frames him this research were present certain restrictions which influenced him the dynamics him collection him the data and their availability .

First , part from the period him implementation him the research everything match with summer period (July – August 2025), when the administrations him local and regional level usually they function with reduced capacity because of use him annual rest . In this one period the interviews generally no everything they were making an appointment , because significant part from the officials and the holders him decisions no were available .

Furthermore , the process him collection date everything was taking place in period who everything match with local elections in 2025. The election campaign started in September 2025 , which in more municipalities ice that increased engagement him mayors and municipal councils administrations in the election process . In certain municipalities the election process was repeated , what additionally it continue the period him political and administrative transition that the beginning in 2026. In like this conditions , part from the institutions they had limited opportunity for actively participation in interviews or for security information in shorter temporary rock.

Additionally restriction everything behaves and on availability him public and online date related with financing him youth policies him local level . In significant number municipalities no exist clearly separated or publicly available information for the budget means intended for young , nor again they everything systematically published him municipal websites . Almost in all cases the means for young everything distributed through different budget programs or activities , without special budget item which would made possible easier monitoring and analysis . Because of that , part from the data for the financial support for the young were received exclusively through interviews with representatives him municipalities and others local stakeholders .

Despite these limitations , research succeeded yes encompass wide spectrum him institutions and organizations him national , regional and local level , which enable relevant insight in the practical implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies .

SUMMARY

This research aims to analyze the practical implementation of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies at the local level in North Macedonia, with a special focus on the differences between urban and rural municipalities.

The research is based on 36 interviews conducted with representatives of local governments, national institutions, regional development centers, youth centers and civil society organizations working on youth issues. The interviews covered municipalities from different regions of the country, as well as relevant national stakeholders, in order to obtain a comprehensive picture of the practical implementation of the Law at the local and national levels.

The Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies establishes an institutional framework for youth participation and the development of youth policies at local and national levels. This framework provides for mechanisms such as a local youth assembly, a local youth council, a youth officer, a youth office, a youth center, and a local youth strategy. However, the results of the field research show that the implementation of these mechanisms in different municipalities is taking place with different dynamics and levels of development.

The findings of the research indicate that there are significant structural differences between urban and rural municipalities in terms of the possibilities for implementing legal mechanisms. Larger urban municipalities usually have greater administrative capacities, more financial resources and a more developed civil society sector, which allows for easier establishment and functioning of youth institutions. In contrast, smaller and rural municipalities face limited human and financial resources, as well as a smaller number of active civil society organizations, which makes the implementation of legal obligations more difficult.

The research shows that in some municipalities there are spaces or institutions that actually perform functions similar to youth centers or other youth services, but they have not been established in accordance with the procedures provided for by the Law or they existed even before its adoption in 2020. This indicates that in many municipalities there is a certain youth infrastructure, but it is not always integrated into the formal institutional framework provided for by the Law.

An additional challenge that often arises in smaller and rural municipalities is the limited interest or motivation among young people to participate in formal mechanisms such as local youth assemblies and/or councils. In some of the interviewed environments, it was indicated that there is a reduced initiative among young people to engage in formal participation processes, which further affects the functioning of the envisaged mechanisms.

Based on the analysis, the research indicates the need for additional institutional, financial and methodological support for municipalities, especially for smaller and rural areas, in order to ensure a more even and effective implementation of the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies.

LAW ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICIES

The law for youthful participation and youth policies represents crucial norms act who me edit the position him young people and their participation in the processes him creation public policies in Republic North Macedonia. The Law was brought in 2020 with goal establishment systemic access towards development him youth policies , as well as the creation mechanisms which will enable actively participation him the young in the public life and processes him decision-making .

With the adoption him this one law , for first time in the state everything establishes comprehensive legal frame which them defines principles , mechanisms and institutional structures for youthful participation and development him youth policies . The law me recognizes the role him the young how active factors in the social development and establishment obligations for the institutions him nationally and locally level in direction him creation conditions for theirs actively participation in the processes him adoption decisions .

With The law everything establishes frame for coordinated access him nationally and locally level in the creation and implementation him youth policies . The law them defines the basics principles him youth participation , as what everything equality him opportunities , inclusiveness , transparency and partnership between institutions and youth organizations . Through this kind access everything strives yes everything create conditions the young yes be recognized how active participants in social processes , not only how users him policies .

One from the key aspects him The law is the establishment. institutional mechanisms which need yes enable systematic inclusion him the young in the processes him adoption decisions . The national level , the Law predicts development and coordination him youth policies through the competent ministry , as well as cooperation with youth organizations and others relevant institutions . The local level , again , the Law predicts sequence obligations for the units him the local self-government , with goal development him local youth policies and security conditions for youthful participation .

In she direction , the Law predicts establishment him more mechanisms for youthful participation and services for young him local level . Between them everything the nomination official for young in frames him the municipality administration , the formation local youth advice how representative body him the young in the municipality , as well as locally assembly him young which represents form him wider consultation and participation him youth . Additionally , the Law predicts establishment youth centers how local services for the young people , who need yes provide space and programs for youth activities , informal education and youth work .

The law the same so also provides for the adoption him strategic documents for young him local level , that is local strategies for young , as well as action plans for theirs implementation . These documents they have for goal yes provide systemic planning and continuity in development him youth policies him local level , as well as integrating him youth perspective in local developmental policies .

Although The law establishes comprehensive institutional frame for youthful participation and development him youth policies , his practical implementation in different municipalities in the state everything takes place with different dynamics . The differences in the administrative ones capacities , financial resources , the institutional readiness and level him development him civil sector significantly affect him the degree him establishment and operation him the mechanisms foreseen with the Law. Especially expressed everything the differences between the bigger ones urban municipalities , which often have with bigger institutional and organizational capacities , both smaller and rural municipalities , where what the implementation him the legal ones mechanisms everything facing with additional challenges related with limited human resources , financial funds and institutional infrastructure . In she direction , analysis him the practical implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies him local level , especially in context him the differences between rural and urban municipalities , represents important step towards better understanding him the opportunities and challenges in development him youth policies in the country.

FIELD RESEARCH FINDINGS

MUNICIPALITY OF GOSTIVAR - INTERVIEW WITH NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER

FULLY ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH POLICIES

Municipality Gostivar represents example of local self-government with completely established mechanisms foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies . In the municipality has been appointed official for young , committed everything changes and adjustments in The Statute of municipality , an office has been established for young people , local is adopted strategy for young and it also works for youth center how crucial local service for young people .

The office for young is planned yes it works in frames of youth center , which allows better coordination between administrative and programmatic work with the young people .

FUNCTIONING OF THE YOUTH CENTER AND LOCAL YOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE

The youth center in Municipality Gostivar actively realize activities with young , with especially good cooperation with the middle ones schools in the territory of the municipality . The center represents functional space for youthful participation , education and development of youth initiatives .

The municipality provides significant financial support for youth policies , with annual budget from about 2,500,000 denars , which allows continuity in functioning of youth services .

CONTINUITY IN THE WORK OF THE LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL

The local youth advice there is finished one mandate , and in the moment at the interview in flow is a procedure for choice of new composition . The previous one public call was unsuccessful , what the interlocutor it connects with this publication in the end of the school year , as well as with the elections processes of local level .

In the moment is announced new public call , at what already everything recorded registered candidates , what indicates of renewed interest and expectation continuation of functioning of youth advice .

NEED FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENT OF LEGAL SOLUTIONS

How suggestions for promotion of The law for youthful participation and youth policies from the interview are distinguish :

- introduction diary and system for records of work and engagement of the members of The local youth advice , with goal better monitoring of their contribution and activity ;
- security at least two officials for young in the larger ones municipalities , especially in multilingual environments , with goal overcoming of the overlap of obligations , security institutional memory and more efficient implementation of youth policies .

MUNICIPALITY OF KAVADARCI - INTERVIEW WITH A NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER AND A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL

CONTINUITY IN THE FUNCTIONING OF YOUTH MECHANISMS

Municipality Kavadarci disposes with established key mechanisms foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies . In the municipality has been appointed nominated official for young people ,

local is adopted strategy for young people , and it also works as a youth center how local service for young people .

The local youth advice is in process him renewal him his/her composition , having considering that him the current ones members them expires mandate . In the moment is announced new public call for choice him new members . According to the interlocutors , the previous composition him The local youth advice was active and regular participated him sessions him The Council him the municipality , at what the young they had opportunity directly yes them represent their own attitudes and initiatives before local carriers him decisions .

In frames him his/her mandate , the council organized public events , forums and activities targeted towards encouragement him youthful participation and local dialogue .

FUNCTIONING OF THE YOUTH CENTER

The youth center in Municipality Kavadarci it works through partner model , at what this work is entrusted him two civil organizations . In the previous ones years the municipality provided significant financial support for this functioning , in amount from approximately 600,000 to 800,000 denars annually .

In the current one year everything notes reduced dynamics him activities , at what that the moment him the interview everything still not submitted program for work for 2026 , which affects him planning him the future financial support .

CHALLENGES RELATED TO YOUTH PARTICIPATION

How crucial challenge everything points out the reduced interest him the young for registration and participation in the new one composition him The local youth advice . This trend indicates him need from additionally motivating and informing him the young for the meaning and role him youth mechanisms in the processes him local decision-making .

At the same time , the interlocutors emphasize that the municipality and the mayor show high level him political will for support him the implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies and implementation him everyone obligations which arise from him/her .

NEED FOR A PROACTIVE ROLE OF THE LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL

How recommendations resulting from the interview everything distinguish :

- The local youth advice in future yes there is more active role through submission initiatives , opinions and suggestions that The Council him the municipality ;
- yes everything take over activities for increase him interest at the young for participation in youth bodies ;
- yes everything provide continuity in the program working him youth center through timely planning and delivery annual programs for work .

MUNICIPALITY OF GRADSKO - INTERVIEW WITH A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION (COMPETENT SECTOR FOR PUBLIC ACTIVITIES / YOUTH POLICIES)

FORMAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW, WITH LIMITED PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Municipality City formally it admits the meaning him The law for youthful participation and youth policies and recognizes this role how frame for promotion him youth participation and position him the young him local level . However , the fieldwork interview indicates that the practical implementation him the legal ones provisions are limited and are facing with structural and functional challenges , typical for the smaller ones municipalities .

LIMITED FUNCTIONALITY OF YOUTH MECHANISMS

In Municipality City exists formed Local youth advice , but the same is not active . The Council there is no made program for work , what directly affects him this functionality and visibility .

Because of absence him program frame from side of the LMS, the municipality there is no basis for allocation him financial means for his/her working , which additionally it deepens the status him dysfunction and limits youth participation in local processes him decision-making .

The municipality there is no established :

- youth center ,
- special office for young people ,
- adopted local strategy for young people .

Youth questions everything treat in frames him others sectors and activities , without clear institutional structure and continuity .

FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK WITHOUT TARGETED FUNDS FOR YOUTH

Municipality City there is no special budget item or program intended for youth policies . The funds what indirectly everything behave him young everything they plan in frames him others budget programs , most often in culture , sports or local events

The absence him active LMS with program additionally me limits the possibility for purposeful and transparent financing him youth activities in accordance with the Law.

LIMITED AND INFORMAL DIALOGUE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Communication with the young in the municipality everything takes place mostly through :

- schools ,
- sports and culture activities ,
- individual informal initiatives .

No exists established regular and formalized mechanism for consultation with the young at creation him local policies and development priorities , what me reduces their involvement and feeling him ownership him local processes .

RURAL CONTEXT AND LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

How smaller municipality with pronounced rural character , Urban everything facing with :

- limited offer him youth contents ,
- shortage from infrastructure intended for young people ,
- migration him the young towards bigger urban centers .

These factors additionally it make it difficult activation and maintenance him youth mechanisms foreseen with the Law.

READINESS FOR ADVANCEMENT AND NEED FOR SUPPORT

The municipality express readiness for :

- reactivation and strengthening him the job him The local youth advice ,
- cooperation with civil organizations ,
- use him regional and intermunicipal cooperation how mechanism for development him youth initiatives .

Everything emphasizes the need from additional professional and methodological support for practical implementation of the Law, especially in context him limited human and financial resources .

MUNICIPALITY OF STRUGA - INTERVIEW WITH NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER

ESTABLISHED ADMINISTRATIVE MECHANISMS FOR YOUTH POLICIES

Municipality Struga disposes with part from the key mechanisms foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies . In the municipality it works office for young , an officer has been appointed for youth , budget support is provided support for youth activities adopted are also local strategy and program for young people .

Despite the established institutional frame , in the municipality everything still no it works youth center , in front everything because of disadvantage him suitable space who dog yes be intended for this one purpose .

PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING YOUTH STRUCTURES

The procedure for formation him Local assembly him is young in advanced phase , at what the public The call is ready , but this publication has been postponed because of the need from technical changes him The Statute him the municipality with goal alignment with the legal ones provisions .

This one process indicates that the implementation him The law often depends from additional administrative adjustments him local level , which dog yes ice that temporary delays in the establishment him youth mechanisms .

CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICIES

According to the interlocutor , the Law for youthful participation and youth policies it is not enough precisely elaborate in the part him obligations and procedures for local It is pointed out that the legal ones solutions no always correspond with the real ones administrative and personnel capacities him the municipalities , without difference him their size .

Additional challenge represents insufficient the defined role him the officer for young people . In practice , the officer often performs other administrative tasks , which brings that overlap him obligations and limited opportunity for dedicated work with the young him terrain .

How significant challenges everything they also state:

- the complex ones procedures for formation youth centers ,
- the complex and insufficient clear procedure for establishment Local youth advice ,
- existence him technical inaccuracies and shortcomings him by-law acts which would me facilitated the practical application of the Law.

THE NEED FOR SYSTEMATIC IMPROVEMENT OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

How recommendations resulting from the interview everything distinguish :

- the number him officials for young yes everything establishes according to the size him the municipality and the language structure him the population ;
- in municipal budgets yes everything introduced special budget item intended for youth policies (" Youth ");
- the mandate him The local youth advice yes be extended him period from 3 to 4 years old with goal security continuity in the work ;

- yes everything define minimal qualifications and professional profile for the position official for young people ;
- yes everything establish financial support from the competent ministry for the services for young which according to The law represent obligation him the municipalities

MUNICIPALITY OF RESEN - INTERVIEW WITH MAYOR AND YOUTH OFFICER

FORMAL COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW, WITH LIMITED PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Municipality Resen there is positive attitude towards goals and principles him The law for youthful participation and youth policies and recognizes this importance how frame for improvement him the position him the young him local level . However , the interview with the mayor and the clerk for young indicates that the implementation him the legal ones provisions everything facing with more structural and resource limitations , characteristics for the smaller and mostly rural municipalities .

UNDERDEVELOPED YOUTH MECHANISMS

In the moment him the interview , in Municipality of Resen:

- there is no established Local youth advice ,
- there is no office for young people ,
- there is no adopted local strategy for youth (the document has been prepared but not adopted by the Municipal Council) ,
- there is no professionalized position him official for young people ,
- there is no established youth center

Youth questions everything cover in frames him others sectors him the municipality administration , which it makes it difficult the systemic planning , continuity in the job with young and complete fulfillment him obligations foreseen with the Law.

FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK WITHOUT A SEPARATE BUDGET LINE FOR YOUTH

The municipality there is no special budget program or item intended exclusively for youth policies . The funds related with activities for young everything distribute in frames him others programs , such as what everything culture , sports or social activities , which me reduces transparency and opportunity for systemic monitoring him public investments in youth development in accordance with the Law.

LIMITED AND IRREGULAR DIALOGUE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Communication with the young most often everything takes place through :

- educational institutions ,
- individual youth , culture or sports activities ,
- initiatives him civil organizations .

No exists established regular , formalized mechanism for consultation with the young at creation him local policies , programs and development priorities , what me limits their real involvement in the processes him local decision-making .

THE RURAL CONTEXT AND MIGRATION AS KEY CHALLENGES

How municipality with pronounced rural character , Resen everything facing with :

- limited offer him youth contents ,
- insufficient socio-cultural infrastructure for young people ,
- absence him purposeful youth space or youth center ,

- continuous migration him young towards bigger urban centers or outside from the state .

These factors directly affect him reduction him youth base and additional it make it difficult the formation and maintenance him youth bodies foreseen with the Law.

WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE AND NEED FOR SUPPORT

Despite the identified challenges , the municipality express readiness for :

- cooperation with civil organizations which they work with young people ,
- use him support and guidance from Ministry for social politics , demography and youth ,
- utilization him intermunicipal and regional cooperation how possible mechanism for development him youth initiatives and sharing resources .

Especially everything emphasizes the need from strengthening him the administrative ones capacities , clarify practical directions for implementation him The law and support for establishment him basic youth mechanisms in the smaller ones municipalities .

MUNICIPALITY OF VRAPČIŠTE - INTERVIEW WITH MAYOR AND HEAD OF URBAN PLANNING

POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOUTH PARTICIPATION, BUT LIMITED INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

The municipality recognizes the importance of the Law as an opportunity for young people to be involved in local decision-making, but there are insufficient human resources and expert support for its systematic implementation. LED works with a minimal team covering multiple areas, so youth issues often remain on the margins.

INSUFFICIENT ESTABLISHMENT OF YOUTH MECHANISMS

At the moment, the municipality has not established a Local Youth Council, no youth office, no Youth Strategy and no appointed youth officer, which limits the implementation of the Law. It has expressed its readiness to establish this in the coming period, with the support of the Ministry of Youth and civil society organizations.

THE FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK IS LIMITED AND NON-SYSTEMIC.

There is no separate program for youth activities in the budget. Funds for youth are planned within other programs, which makes monitoring and compliance with legal obligations difficult.

LACK OF CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

Contacts with young people are mostly through schools or individual initiatives, without an established system for consultation. Both the LED and the mayor emphasize the need to create a permanent mechanism for communication and inclusion of young people in development processes.

NEED FOR EXTERNAL SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIPS

The municipality expresses its willingness to cooperate with civil society organizations, as well as with regional and state institutions, to develop a local youth strategy and establish functional youth bodies in accordance with the Law.

SOUTHWEST PLANNING REGION DEVELOPMENT CENTER - INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD OF THE CENTER AND WITH THE HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT

YOUTH MECHANISMS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF THE REGION

According to the information received in the interview, the implementation of the mechanisms foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies in the municipalities from The Southwest planned region everything takes place with different dynamics. In the municipalities Ohrid and Kicevo exist functional local youth advice and everything implement activities related with youth policies. During the interview period, in Municipality Struga local youth advice is formal formed, but in the moment there is no active members, which me limits this practical role in youth participation on local level.

In the region there are also certain forms of infrastructure for young people. In Struga EU Info works center, which partially covers activities related with the young, while in Municipality Vevcani exists youth center who everything uses for activities and initiatives on the young people.

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL PROCESSES

The representatives of The center they pointed out that in frames of regional forums related with the same one regional development everything leads account for inclusion of the young people. These forums the young everything present how participants, and all keeps records for their age with goal yes everything provide their active participation in the processes of determination of regional priorities.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES AIMED AT YOUTH

The center there is experience in implementation activities targeted towards the young through donor programs. In frames of project funded from UNDP, was established program for internship for young, with duration from six months. Although the initiative gave positive results, business the sector no more continued the program after completion of the project.

Additionally, through programs supported from The Fund for innovation and technology development, of young faces with business ideas they were provided mentors and support for development of their entrepreneurial initiatives.

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING WITH YOUTH

In the region exist more civil organizations which they work on youth questions and activities with young people. Among them everything organizations from Struga, as well as organizations from Vevcani and Centar Župa, which implement different youth activities and initiatives in local communities.

POTENTIAL OF LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN RURAL AREAS

In the interview was indicated that in everyone municipalities in the region exist local communities, including in rural populated places. These spaces represent potential infrastructure which do yes everything adapt and use for activities of young people, like form of local youth spaces or youth centers. In the direction was the possibility was also indicated for intermunicipal cooperation, that is use of one object or space for youth activities from side of young from more rural populated places or smaller municipalities.

From the interview resulted a few recommendations for improvement of the system of youthful participation and development of youth policies on regionally and locally level:

- Formation of intermunicipal centers for young people, especially in regions with bigger number of rural populated places, with goal more efficiently use of the existing one infrastructure.

- Bigger inclusion him the young in the processes him adoption decisions him regional level , especially in frames him regional forums and processes him determination him the development priorities .
- Replication him the model him Regional platform for young , like what exists in The Pelagonian region , and in The Southwest planned region , with goal better coordination between municipalities , youth organizations and institutions .
- Dispersion him activities and offices him youth centers in smaller and rural populated places , with goal improvement him the approach him the young that youth services .
- Establishment system for monitoring him fulfillment him obligations from The law for youthful participation and youth policies , such as mechanism for monitoring him the implementation him the legal ones mechanisms him local level .

MUNICIPALITY OF OHRID - INTERVIEW WITH MAYOR

In the Municipality of Ohrid, most of the mechanisms envisaged by the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies have been established, including the Local Youth Council, which functions as an advisory body and as a channel for the inclusion of young people in local policies.

The development plans of the municipality envisage the construction of a Youth Cultural Center, which, in addition to program activities, will also include accommodation facilities. A new public enterprise is planned to be established to manage this facility, which will be responsible for the organization and coordination of activities.

The municipality provides support to civil society organizations through public calls for funding activities, which are announced in several areas, including sports, culture, social protection and tourism. These calls also support activities of young people and youth organizations.

The interview highlighted that dispersing institutional activities in local communities represents a good opportunity for greater accessibility of youth activities. In this regard, the use of cultural centers or other facilities through local communities for organizing activities for youth was pointed out as a potential model.

The interview suggests that it is necessary to consider the scalability of the obligations of municipalities in relation to the Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policies, ie their adjustment to the level of development and administrative capacities of the municipalities. Additionally, support was expressed for the establishment of a Regional Youth Platform in the South-West Planning Region as well, as a mechanism for better coordination and cooperation between municipalities and youth organizations at the regional level.

YOUTH CENTER OHRID - INTERVIEW WITH THE MANAGER

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP AND CAPACITIES

The youth center Ohrid it works him foundation him agreement with Municipality of Ohrid, which has been extended for period from three years . The Center it manages the coalition him organizations SEGA, which there is long-term experience in implementation youth programs and activities .

The annual budget him The youth center amount to about 3,000,000 denars , at what is observed continuous growth him the financial support from side him the municipality . In frames him the center they work two certified youth workers , and in the next one period is provided yes everything open call for engagement and third youth worker.

PROGRAMS AND COOPERATION WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

The program for work in the youth center everything prepares annually level through participatory process, in which everything included more local civil organizations and youth initiatives. Among organizations and initiatives which collaborate with the center are:

- 5 to 12 – amateur culture movement,
- Association of young architects – Ohrid,
- Green Ohrid,
- Inclusion, like other local initiatives and informal groups.

This one cooperation allows different cultural, educational and social activities for the young in the municipality.

ACCESSIBILITY OF YOUTH SERVICES AND RURAL DIMENSION

In the interview was indicated that the youth center in the moment no implements special activities targeted towards the young from rural populated places in the territory of the Municipality of Ohrid. Although the municipality there is more bigger populated places with significant number of young people, in the program planning no exist special mechanisms for systematic mapping of needs of the young from these environments.

How main challenge was indicated availability that the center, that is insufficient the developed public transportation which then makes it difficult for the young from the more distant ones populated places to participate in the activities in the youth center. The location of the center, although functional, represents restriction for part from the young which live outside from the central city area.

COOPERATION WITH INSTITUTIONS AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

The representatives of the youth center they pointed out that the cooperation with local institutions and others factors on local level is good and that exists readiness for further development of youth activities. In the direction, as potential opportunity was indicated and used the existing one municipal infrastructure in different populated places for organizing activities of the young people.

From the interview resulted a few recommendations for improvement of the system of youth services and implementation of the Law for youthful participation and youth policies:

- Yes everything consider the possibility for categorization of youth centers according to size and characteristics of the municipalities, with goal the human and the spatial capacities of the centers to be appropriate to the number of youth and needs of the local community.
- Yes everything encourage dispersion of activities and offices of youth centers in smaller and rural populated places, through use of the existing one municipal infrastructure.
- Yes everything develop mechanisms for better mapping of needs of the young from rural environments, with goal the programs of youth centers to be more inclusive and accessible.
- Yes everything advance the system for certification and standardization of youth workers, with goal security quality youth work and profession standards in functioning of youth centers.

MUNICIPALITY OF BITOLA - INTERVIEW WITH MAYOR AND NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER

ESTABLISHED INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH POLICIES

Municipality Bitola represents another example of local self-government with established key mechanisms foreseen with the Law for youthful participation and youth policies. In the municipality has been appointed

nominated official for young people , local is adopted strategy for young and established are also functional structures for youthful participation .

In the moment function :

- Local assembly him young people ,
- Local youth advice ,
- youth center how local service for young people .

These mechanisms enable institutionalized dialogue between youth and local power and creation conditions for continuously participation him the young in the processes him creation local policies .

FUNCTIONING OF THE YOUTH CENTER AND PARTNERSHIP MANAGEMENT MODEL

The youth center in Municipality Bitola it works according to partner model him management , at what this work is entrusted him three civil organizations , which in cooperation with the municipality it realize the program work and activities intended for the young people .

The center represents active space for educational , cultural and youth initiatives and services how platform for cooperation between the local self-government , civil sector and the youth . Such model everything recognizes how example for functional application him the legal ones provisions which predict management with youth centers from side him youth organizations .

REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY AND INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION

Municipality Bitola is active member him The regional platform for young in The Pelagonian planned region , through which everything allows coordination him youth policies between municipalities , exchange him experiences and common ground addressing him regional youth challenges .

CHALLENGES AND NEED FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Despite the established institutional frame , interlocutors they point out that sustainability him youth mechanisms requires continuous financial and institutional support , as well as further strengthening him the administrative ones capacities for implementation him youth policies him local level .

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE PELAGON PLANNING REGION - INTERVIEW WITH THE MANAGER

POSITIONING YOUTH IN REGIONAL PLANNING

According to the interlocutor , young people represent significant developmental category in The Pelagonian planned region , which is also reflected in strategic determinations him the region . In the valid one Program for development him The Pelagonian planned region , youth everything treat how part from the wider ones policies for development him human resources , education and social inclusion , at what the regional vision predicts creation conditions for better perspective and retention him the young population in the region .

ACTIVE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH POLICIES

The interlocutor points out that The Pelagonian planned region everything stands out after presence him active civil organizations which they work with young in almost everyone municipalities in region . These organizations represent significant partner him local self-government in the processes related with youthful participation and implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies .

Additionally , all municipalities in the region show activity in relationship him establishment and development him youth mechanisms foreseen with the Law, including youth centers , local youth tips and others forms him youthful participation .

ROLE OF THE CENTER WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The center for development of the Pelagonian planned region has a coordinating role in encouraging intermunicipal cooperation and regional planning, in what youth questions everything more often everything recognize how horizontal topic connected with demographic trends, migration and local development. Despite that, the Center in the moment no realize special regional projects exclusively targeted towards the young in frames of the programs for even regional development, which indicates its potential for further strengthening of the regional access towards youth policies.

REGIONAL YOUTH PLATFORM AS AN ESTABLISHED GOOD PRACTICE

The interlocutor mentions the established Regional platform for young in the Pelagonian planned region, recognizing it as a significant mechanism for coordination between municipalities, youth organizations and institutions. The platform everything evaluates as a positive example for regional access towards youthful participation and how model who does yes contributed towards more efficient implementation of youth policies and regionally and on local level.

MUNICIPALITY OF DOLNENI - INTERVIEW WITH NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER

In Municipality Dolneni in the moment no everything established bridge mechanisms foreseen with the law for youthful participation and youth policies. The municipality there is no brought Strategy for young, no office for young, not established Local assembly of young neither Local youth advice, and on the territory of the municipality no it works neither youth center.

How main challenges for implementation of the legal ones mechanisms everything indicated the limited financial resources of the municipality, as well as the low level of initiative and organization at the young of local level. In frames of the municipality budget no exists special budget item for young people, what additionally makes it difficult the possibility for planning and support of youth activities and initiatives.

This one example mentions to illustrate the situation in part from the smaller and rural municipalities, where what the implementation of the legal ones mechanisms everything facing with limited administrative and financial capacities, as well as with insufficient developed local youth infrastructure.

From the interview arises that for municipalities of Dolneni is needed additional support in the process of implementation of the law for youthful participation and youth policies. In this direction, are recommended security methodological and administrative support for the smaller ones municipalities at establishment of the legal ones mechanisms, introduction of special budget "Youth" item in the municipality budget with goal systemic planning and financing of youth activities, as well as encouragement of development of local youth organizations and initiatives as prerequisite for more active participation of the young in local policies and processes of adoption decisions.

PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA - INTERVIEW WITH MRS. DRAGANA BOJKOVSKA, MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT AND COORDINATOR OF THE CLUB FOR YOUTH ISSUES AND POLICIES

In frames of the interview with the member of parliament Dragana Boykovska was indicated that of level of the Assembly already everything received the comments and suggestions for amendments and additions of the law for youthful participation and youth policies, submitted from side of the umbrella organizations which they work in the area of youth policies.

In the next one period everything expects yes start wider process of public debate, who will then turn on the political parties, donors community, civil society organizations, youth organizations and others relevant

affected sides . The goal him this one the process is to everything provide inclusive access in the promotion him the legal one frame and better adjustment him the legal ones mechanisms him the real ones needs and challenges him terrain .

In the interview was expressed complete support for initiatives and processes targeted towards improvement him the situation with the young in the state , as well as preparedness for further cooperation with institutions and civil society sector in direction him promotion him youth policies .

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF MACEDONIA - INTERVIEW WITH SECRETARY GENERAL AND PROGRAM MANAGER

In frames him the interview with representatives him The National youth advice him Macedonia (NMSM) was indicated that the proposals for amendments and additions him The law for youthful participation and youth policies already everything delivered that The Assembly him Republic North Macedonia. These suggestions arise from the long-standing work him youth sector and from the need for improvement him the practical implementation him the legal ones mechanisms .

How priority for the next one period was prominently the establishment him the national bodies foreseen with the Law, as well as the provision him financial mechanisms and means which everything foreseen in the legal one frame , with goal systemic functioning him youth policies him national level .

In the interview was emphasized that the introduction special budget " Youth " item in municipal budgets dog yes everything realize through relatively simple administrative change , that is through change him the circular letter which Ministry for finances it sends that the budget users , with what would everything made possible clearly budget distribution him the means for youth policies .

Additionally was prominent the need from unlocking him the process for registration him new youth organizations in The registry him youth organizations who it leads Ministry for social politics , demography and youth , with goal expansion him youth infrastructure and more involvement him the young in the system him youthful participation .

In she direction was proposed yes everything initiates even greater inclusion him youth organizations from rural environments , especially in regions like Pelagonia, where what exist active local organizations which everything part from the network him Pro Local, and which ones? would could yes everything join towards membership of the NMSM and yes contribute for bigger territory representation him youth sector .

SKOPJE PLANNING REGION DEVELOPMENT CENTER - INTERVIEW WITH MANAGER AND ADMINISTRATION EMPLOYEE

POSITIONING YOUTH IN REGIONAL PLANNING

In the moment him the interview , the program for development him The Skopje planned region is with expired valid period , at what youth policies in the previous one programmatic cycle no were treated how special developmental area , but indirectly in frames him wider priorities related with education , social development and development him human resources . The interlocutors they point out that in the processes him planning him the regional development exists awareness for the meaning him the young how developed potential , but their systemic integration in regional policies everything still remains limited .

LIMITED FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH INITIATIVES

The center in the moment no disposes with financial means intended for realization him projects targeted towards the young , nor in frames him the programs for even regional development , nor through others donor mechanisms . How result , youth activities no represent special program line in the work at the Center.

PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH IN THE PROCESSES OF BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In frames him The forums for even regional development , the Center practices invitation him representatives him youth and civic organizations which they work with young , with goal theirs inclusion in the processes him determination him regional priorities . However , their participation it is not continuous institutionalized . According to the interlocutors , in frames him The Skopje planned region most active municipalities in the area him youth policies everything Municipality Karposh and Municipality Gazi Baba, where everything realize bigger number activities and initiatives targeted towards the young people .

READINESS FOR REGIONAL COORDINATION OF YOUTH POLICIES

The center express openness for establishment Regional platform for young how mechanism for better coordination between municipalities and intensified participation him the young in the processes him regional planning , if the initiative be supported with technical help and in partnership with civil sector .

MUNICIPALITY OF CENTER - INTERVIEW WITH HEAD OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SECTOR AND YOUTH OFFICER

In Municipality Center everything established part from the mechanisms foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies . The municipality there is nominated official for young , and on her territory also works for youth center , which is managed from side of the Union of scouts . Youth center has been established still before the adoption him The law for youthful participation and youth policies and operates on the basis of concluded agreement him period from five years .

In relationship him the strategic planning , previous Strategy for young him the municipality has expired , and in the moment no it works Local youth council . The municipality in own working supports activities for the young , but in the municipality budget no exists special budget " Youth " item. The funds for activities and initiatives him the young everything distributed in more budget programs , among which local economy development and life environment .

In the interview was indicated that it is necessary yes everything consider the possibility everyone means which the municipalities them they distinguish for youth activities and policies yes everything consolidate in special budget item , with goal bigger transparency and clarity planning him youth policies . How challenge was indicated and relative the low level him initiative at the young , that is certain lethargy in their participation in public processes and activities .

From the interview arises and that it is necessary yes everything provide bigger professionalization him the position official for young people , that is in systematization him municipal administrations yes everything predict clear and distinct working position for this one function . Additionally , are recommends introduction special budget " Youth " item in municipal budgets , in which would everything consolidated everyone means intended for youth activities and policies .

Same so , it was proposed yes everything consider the possibility for introduction compensation for the members him the administrative bodies him local youth advice , with goal increase him motivation and activity him the young in these mechanisms . Additionally , it was prominent the need the municipalities yes provide continuity in the strategic planning in the area him youth questions , through regularly adoption and renewal him local strategies for young

The example him Municipality Center indicates him that that the implementation him the mechanisms foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies – how what everything The local youth council and budget item for young people – all takes place in different dynamics , even in municipalities with bigger institutional capacities .

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL POLICY, DEMOGRAPHY AND YOUTH - INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE YOUTH SECTOR

In frames him the interview with representatives from the sector for young at Ministry for social politics , demography and youth (MSPDM) was indicated that in the process him institutional changes , that is the formation him the new ministry and the abolition him The agency for youth and sports , everything appeared certain legal and institutional challenges . In she direction , was prominent the need from additionally alignment him the legal one regulation , with goal security continuity and more efficiency implementation him youth policies .

According to the interlocutors , in big part from the municipalities exists challenge connected with insufficient motivation him the young for inclusion in institutional mechanisms , in particular in the processes him formation and functioning him The local youth tips . How indicative date was indicated that the number him local youth advice in the state , which was bringing around 40 in 2021 , in the past period record trend him reduction .

Ministry in frames him their own competencies provides and limited financial support for youth centers , which everything behaves him equipment him the offices him the centers with basic equipment , such as what everything desks and computers .

From the interview arises that it is necessary additionally institutional and legal alignment after the transformation him the institutions competent for youth policies , as well as developing him mechanisms for bigger motivation and involvement him the young in local mechanisms him youthful participation , especially in the process him formation and functioning him local youth tips .

MUNICIPALITY OF CHUCHER SANDEVO - INTERVIEW WITH HEAD OF PUBLIC ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT AND OFFICER FOR YOUTH AND YOUTH POLICIES

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP AND CAPACITIES

In Municipality Chucher Sandevo no everything established bigger part from the mechanisms foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies . The municipality in the moment there is no formed Local youth council , there is no youth office either there is brought local strategy for young people .

In the course him the interview was ascertained that in the municipality existed wrong interpretation him the legal one provision for official for young people , that is everything considered that this one position must yes be especially new working place . After clarification him the legal one frame , was accepted the referent for young and youth policies yes be nominated how official for young , with inspection him that what The law allows this one function yes me execute already employee administrative officer

LOCAL YOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES

He the territory him the municipality it works only one civil organization , which realize activities in frames him the program Erasmus +. In the municipality exist certain activities from the area him sports , culture and ethnology , but they no everything directly targeted towards the young people . In frames him The home him culture everything realize only one activity which them includes the young , that is free hours after accordion for children and youth .

CHALLENGES

General conclusion from the interview is that the municipality there is limited knowledge him obligations and content foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies , which represents challenge for this implementation him local level .

Additionally was prominently that proximity him Skopje how administrative and educational center there is strong gravitational influence him the young people , who most often them use cultural , educational and youth contents in the main one city , instead of him local level .

From the interview arises the need from systematic strengthening him the capacities him the units him the local self-government in relationship him the implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies . In she direction everything recommends Ministry for social politics , demography and youth , in cooperation with networks him civil organizations , yes organize trainings and activities for strengthening him the capacities him the municipalities , with special focus him the smaller and rural municipalities .

MUNICIPALITY OF KARBINSI - INTERVIEW WITH SECTOR HEAD

FORMAL COMPLIANCE, BUT LIMITED PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

Municipality Karbinci there is brought decision for formation him Local youth advice , and this provision is also included in The Statute him municipality . However , due to the weak one interest him youth , Council everything still is not formed . Despite the public announcement him the mayor and the support from non-governmental organization organization from Stip, no everything reported candidates .

LACK OF YOUTH STAFF AND CONTINUITY

The municipality previously had appointed official for young , but the face more is not in working relation , and deputy is not assigned . This additionally it limits implementation him the legal ones obligations and reduces the institutional communication with the young people .

PREPARATION OF A LOCAL YOUTH STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN IS UNDERWAY.

The documents everything in phase him preparation , but everything still no everything finalized . The Municipality express need from support in the process , as well as from external expertise for yes everything provide alignment with The law for youthful participation and youth policies and with the national directions .

LACK OF FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH

In the municipality budget no exists special budget program for young people . Means everything provide indirectly through the program for culture which provides for approximately 2,000,000 MKD for culture events , as well as through financing him sports clubs in which young people are members . Part from the activities everything is also realized through transmission him certain activities him non-governmental organizations organizations .

LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND INCREASED MIGRATION

Big part from the young me they leave the municipality , most often leaving in Stip or in countries from Western Europe. The main reasons everything the low economy security , the lack him working places and insufficient developed infrastructure for youth life .

EXISTING RESOURCES AND INITIATIVES

In the municipality exist objects which everything use for culture and sports activities , such as what everything The home him culture in Tarinci and the municipality hall , which everything free of charge available for There are also informal groups him active young which volunteer at organizing him events , but without formal institutional support or presence him certified youth workers .

NEED FOR INTER-MUNICIPAL COOPERATION AND SUPPORT FROM THE STATE

Budgets of rural municipalities are everything limited and often insufficient for fulfillment of the legal obligations. In this direction, a municipality considers that the law for intermunicipal cooperation does not use any mechanism for development of common youth initiatives, especially with the Municipality of Shtip, where what the young from Karbinci often continue own education and participation in different activities.

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE EASTERN PLANNING REGION – INTERVIEW WITH EMPLOYEES IN THE CENTER'S ADMINISTRATION

PRONOUNCED MIGRATION OF YOUTH FROM RURAL AREAS

According to the Center for development of the Eastern planned region, it is noticeable that the young they begin to move out from smaller rural municipalities still in the course of the middle school education. The students from Macedonian Kamenica most often travel or everything they write down in Delchevo, and the students from Pehchevo continue education in Berovo, because of shortage of medium schools in their own municipalities. This creates forced migration and gradually reduces youth base in the smaller ones rural municipalities.

REGIONAL INVESTMENTS IN YOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE

The Eastern planned region there is realized more infrastructure projects with youth purpose. Among them are:

- Youth center in Kocani, located in space secured through previous IPA project, which in Meanwhile it is finished.
- Home of culture in Vinica, with updated cinema and hall for events, where everything also organizes the "In Vinica Veritas" festival.
- Multicultural center in Kocani, equipped for youth activities in cooperation with local non-governmental organization.
- Home of young in Shtip, financed through regional priorities determined from The Council for development of the Eastern planned region.

POLITICAL AND INSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGES IN FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

During the conversation it was highlighted that continuity in functioning of the homes of culture and youth spaces often depends from the political affiliation of the local government and from the steering wheel structures. This sometimes creates instability in programs and brings that insufficient utilization of the existing ones infrastructure capacities.

DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

The larger ones urban centers, such as What is Stip, they have with more programs and content intended for the young, while the smaller ones rural municipalities they have limited opportunities and in bigger measure depends from regional initiatives or projects of civil organizations.

ACTIVE ROLE OF THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL SECTOR AND NEED FOR COORDINATION

In the region they function more civil organizations which they work on topics related with The young people. However, they are pointing out the need for bigger coordination between these organizations, municipalities and the Center for regional development, with goal to provide better synergy and continuity in youth activities.

REGIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR IMPROVEMENT

How possible directions for promotion him the situation with the young in the region everything they point out the following recommendations :

- Yes no everything reduce the means in The program for even regional development , but in her yes everything predict special components for youth policies and activities .
- Yes everything encourage intermunicipal and regional cooperation for development him youth infrastructure and programming projects .
- Yes everything take advantage of cross-border and European programs (on example IPA program Macedonia – Bulgaria) for support him youth initiatives and tourism with participation him young people .

In the interview was also pointed out that the region no disposes with mechanism how The regional platform for young , nor there is special mechanisms for systemic inclusion him the young in the processes him creation policies him regional level .

MUNICIPALITY OF PEHCEVO – INTERVIEW WITH NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER

FORMED AND ACTIVE LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL

In Municipality Pehchevo was formed Local youth advice who it works from 2023. The Council has 5 members , while The Assembly him youth advice count more of 30 members . The procedure for formation on LMS was relatively complex , and the young were recruited bridge through local associations him citizens and playground group .

In the process him formation and functioning him youth advice significant support also gave the local non-governmental organization organization " Ambrosia " , which is active in the municipality . Additionally , the official for young in the municipality actively them helps him the members on the LMS in their work and organization him activities .

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Municipality Pehchevo there is established special budget program and budget item for young people , through which everything support youth activities and initiatives . In the frames him this one budget program everything foreseen funds and for functioning him The local youth advice .

In the municipality administration is also appointed an officer for young people , what allows better coordination and support him youth policies him local level .

A FUNCTIONAL YOUTH CENTER AND AN ACTIVE YOUTH COMMUNITY

In the municipality was formed youth center according to the legal one procedure , which is equipped and active everything uses from The youth . The center serves how space for different activities , such as what are :

- volunteer shares for cleaning him life environment
- implementation questionnaires and consultations with young (of example at manufacturing on LEAP – Local ecological action plan)
- cinema screenings and others youth events

In the frames him youth center work and volunteer from The Peacemaker corps , which additionally contributes for development him youth activities .

The municipality also has more sports and recreation contents which everything use from young people , like what everything football fields , sports gym , adrenaline path , arranged accessible path that the waterfall and sports and recreational complex .

Additionally , in cooperation with The educational center in Negrevo is also built as a bar. eco-system , which represents space for educational and ecological activities .

EDUCATIONAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHALLENGES

In the municipality earlier existed secondary school , but in the moment him the interview the students continue education in Berovo. It has been announced again introduction him educational direction tourism , which everything considers for especially attractive for the young , and which dog yes contributed for theirs retention in the municipality .

ACTIVE YOUTH BASE

In the frames him The local youth advice are included more out of 20 active young people , what indicates him existence him active youth community . According to the interlocutors , a significant factor for the successful one implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth politics is the fact what in the municipality administration they work young people who show understanding and support for youth initiatives .

IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING YOUTH TOURISM

How potential initiative everything mentions the idea for organizing camping for young from whole Macedonia in Pehchevo, in the frames him summer festival , with goal promotion him the natural ones resources and youth activism .

How directions for improvement him youth policies everything they distinguish the following recommendations:

- Yes everything simplify and facilitate the procedures for formation and registration him youth centers , because the existing one The procedure is complex .
- Yes everything encourage networking him youth organizations and youth centers , with goal better exchange him experiences and cooperation .
- Yes everything establish improved flow him information , on example through online platform for youth organizations and centers .
- Yes everything better the approach that information for open calls and programs , with goal the young easier yes everything include in national and international initiatives .

EDUCATIONAL CENTER NEGREVO - INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CENTER

A STRONG PLATFORM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

The educational center Negrevo represents significant platform for ecological education and work with young people . The center there is already established contents which include interactive workshops , educational activities and programs for lifting him consciousness for life environment .

Activities most often everything realize through practical and interactive methods him learning , what allows actively inclusion him the young in the process him education .

LIMITED FORMALIZATION OF PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Although the center there is developed educational programs , no exists clearly documented or promoted series him training which everything targeted towards management with project cycle (planning , implementation , monitoring and evaluation) for the young and for the staff or the volunteers him the center .

In the existing ones information from the center everything states that exists need from continuously building him the capacities him the staff , which opens opportunity for development him special module or cycle him training dedicated him management with projects in the community .

POTENTIAL FOR INTRODUCING STRUCTURED TRAINING CYCLES

How opportunity everything identifies introduction him structured educational module , on example : " Management" with project cycle for young and local communities " , which would encompass topics how what are :

- basics him project planning
- preparation and application him project suggestions
- implementation him activities
- monitoring and evaluation
- communication and visibility him the projects .

GOOD PRACTICE: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AND INTERACTIVE METHODS

The educational center successfully applies methods him experientially learning , how what everything walks after educational pedestrian paths , interactive panels for water , habitats and biodiversity , as well as practical activities in natural environment . These methods represent good foundation for combining him theoretically training for project planning with practical field activities , at what herself location him the center dog yes it works like " live" laboratory " for learning .

CHALLENGES RELATED TO FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

One from the main ones challenges what everything they point out is security financial means for current functioning him the center . For development him systematically cycles him training will be necessary yes everything predict appropriate financial framework , as well as partnerships with institutions , civil organizations and donors .

SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF RURAL ENVIRONMENT

Because the center everything finds in rural environment , there are specific challenges related with logistics , availability and motivation him the young people . Because of that , the programs for training need yes it take considering this one context and yes everything focus him practical topics , such as what everything mobilization him youth , cooperation with the local administration and development him projects which directly they answer him needs him the local community .

With goal better utilization him the potential him the center , everything proposes :

- development modular program for training for management with projects (of example : " Basics" him management with projects " , " Donor procedures " , " Monitoring and evaluation " , " Communication and visibility ");

- establishment partnerships with local non-governmental organizations and the municipality administration in implementation of trainings ;
- inclusion of young pilot participants in training and development of small youth projects which will implement practical exercise in the framework of the program .

The experience of The educational center Negrevo shows that in rural environments everything develops significant capacities for education and work with young , but for their complete potential everything use a larger one is needed institutional support , structured programs for building capacities and better connection with local youth policies and mechanisms foreseen in The law for youthful participation and youth policies .

YOUTH FOR WORK UNION IN SHTIP - INTERVIEW WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARY

THE ROLE OF MUNICIPALITIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE YOUTH LAW

According to representatives of the Union for youth work , municipalities they have key role in creation conditions for active participation of the young in the local self-government and in the establishment of institutions and bodies foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies . For effective implementation of the law , it is necessary for youth policies to become real priority of local authorities .

PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE YOUTH OFFICER

How important recommendation everything points out the need in the municipalities with more of 20,000 inhabitants to be appointed professional official for young , with clearly defined competencies and institutional support . Professionalization of this one position is important for security continuity in youth policies and coordination of local activities .

CONTINUITY OF YOUTH WORK THROUGH YOUTH CENTERS

The youth work at local level need to have continuity , and that most often everything provides through functioning of youth centers . However , in the little ones rural municipalities is difficult to expect that each municipality will establish and maintain own youth center

In such cases , such as possible solution everything proposes youth worker to take over the role of intermediary or substitution of youth center , organizing trainings , activities and youth programs in the community .

CHALLENGES WITH REGIONAL AND MOBILE MODELS OF YOUTH WORK

According to experience of the Union, the model of regional youth centers is not everything shown as optimal solution . Instead of that , better solution is existence of small local rooms or youth spaces in each municipality , which will be directly available for The young people . SMR has tested models of dispersed " antennas " of youth centers , such as example cooperation between municipalities of Macedonian Brod – Samokov , Shtip – Probishtip and Kavadarci – Negotino . However , these models everything they showed how financial complex and difficult for maintenance . Try it. was also a model of mobile youth center in the municipalities of Bosilovo, Novo Village and Vasilevo , but the initiative not continued because of the non-existence of an agreement around financing of certified youth worker . Municipalities often preferred to hire local faces after own choice , instead of professionally certified youth workers .

INSTITUTIONAL AND SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES

How significant challenge everything points out the fact that in The law for local self-government it is not explicitly established jurisdiction of the municipalities in the area of youth policies , which creates institutional

ambiguities . Additionally , the profession youth worker everything still not complete recognized how profession in the national classification him working places , but everything treats how occupation . Because of that , everything proposes opening him process for her/his formally recognition in the national classification .

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In the system him high education exists postgraduate program for master's degree after youth work , but interest for this one program everything it is still relatively small . However , the very existence him like this program represents important step towards professionalization him youth work .

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND PARTNERSHIPS

The financial resources everything recognize how crucial factor for development him youth work . Municipalities need yes provide appropriate spaces for youth centers , but no need yes everything expects that they will be completely self-sustaining . Therefore everything emphasizes the need from inclusion him business sector , as well as from support from the donor's community , with goal security additional resources for youth activities .

NEED TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUTH WORK

How important challenge everything also points out the insufficient understanding him the meaning him youth work him local level . Because of that , necessary everything activities for lifting him awareness and knowledge at local institutions and the holders him decisions . At the same time everything emphasizes and that the local presence and engagement him local actors in youth structures foreseen with The law is key. for successful implementation him youth policies .

ADMINISTRATIVE CHALLENGES IN SMALL MUNICIPALITIES

In the smaller ones municipalities honor problem represents the big one fluctuation him employees in the municipality administration , which additionally it makes it difficult continuity in implementation him youth policies and mechanisms foreseen with the Law.

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUTHEAST PLANNING REGION - INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD AND REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ADMINISTRATION ON CRJIPR – CERTIFIED YOUTH WORKER

POSITIONING YOUTH WITHIN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

The center for development him The Southeast planned region me recognizes the importance him youth questions in frames him the regional development . According to The program for development him the region , the youth everything treated in frames him the area education , which indicates him theirs thematic positioning in the existing ones regional strategic documents . In frames him The forums for even regional development , which serve for determination him regional priorities what further everything propose in frames him The National program for regional development , participation they take more civil organizations and institutions representatives . However , the young no represent dominant or systemic represented category participants in these processes .

YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR

The center realize occasionally activities targeted towards young people , mostly in frames him donor projects , without established continuous regional program for youth development . According to the interlocutors , the most developed ecosystem him youth activities in the region is recorded in Municipality of Strumica, where they function more active organizations which they work with young people , among which is particularly pointed out Center for research and analysis " Novus ". Active organizations exist in Radovich (Kruna) Plus) and Gevgelija (RCS ORA).

FUNCTIONALITY OF LOCAL YOUTH MECHANISMS

In frames him the region everything notes different degree him establishment and functionality him youth mechanisms foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies . How an example is given Municipality of Bosilovo, where formally was established Local youth advice and secured space for his/her functioning , but the same in the moment is not active . Municipal officials for young everything appointed in the municipalities of Radovis, Strumica and Gevgelija .

REGIONAL COOPERATION AND READINESS FOR NEW MECHANISMS

The center there is previously experience with inclusion him civil organizations through public calls for participation in the job him The Council for development him the region . In she direction , interlocutors express readiness for establishment Regional platform for young in The Southeast planned region , if the process be supported with technical assistance and coordination from side him civil sector .

THE NEED FOR INCREASED AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

How significant challenge is highlighted insufficient awareness him the young for existence and activities him youth centers in the region . emphasizes the need from more intense promotion and outreach him youth services that the young with goal theirs bigger participation and use .

MUNICIPALITY OF STRUMICA - INTERVIEW WITH NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER

ESTABLISHED INFRASTRUCTURE FOR YOUTH IN NEED OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Municipality Strumica represents one from the municipalities in the region with longer experience in work with young and established local mechanisms for youthful participation . In the municipality it works Youth center which is formed still before the adoption him The law for youthful participation and youth policies and who continuously gets institutional support from side him the local self-government . The youth center disposes with space secured in frames him the municipality building . In the moment him The interview is scheduled. procedure for publication public call for choice him civil organization which will it take over management and programming functioning him the center , according to the legal ones solutions .

In practice , use him the space remains open for youth initiatives , at what interested young or organizations deliver request that the municipality , which allows use him the space for realization him activities .

REGIONAL COOPERATION AND ACCESSIBILITY CONSTRAINTS

The municipality previously realized common initiatives with smaller neighboring municipalities , enabling use him youth infrastructure and from side him young from the surroundings municipalities . However , as key obstacle is indicated the problem with transportation , which significantly it limited participation him the young from the smaller and rural environments .

This one finding indicates that existence him youth infrastructure only after yourself no guarantees equal access if no everything provide conditions for youth mobility and regional availability .

FUNCTIONALITY OF YOUTH MECHANISMS

In Municipality Strumica is appointed official for young and existing valid local strategy for young , while the action plan for her implementation is with expired The local youth advice is established , but at the time of his interview legally mandate has expired . According to the interlocutor , the interest for participation in new composition him The local youth advice is limited despite the published public call from side him municipality .

One of the factors for this condition are assumed to be the existence of a certain level of distrust at the young towards the formal mechanisms for participation.

Additionally, the interlocutor indicates that before the adoption of the Law for youthful participation and youth policies the young easier everything self-organized and initiated youth activities, while after the establishment of the formal ones procedures everything notes reduced initiative, which everything connects with the increased administrative frame.

FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH POLICIES

Municipality Strumica there is no established special budget item intended exclusively for youth policies. According to the received information, attempts for introduction of such item were not approved in frames of the budget classification through the treasury system of the Ministry for finances, because what the activities related with young everything finance through others programmatic areas.

NEED FOR MORE FLEXIBLE LEGAL IMPLEMENTATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

How recommendation everything points out the need from simplification of formalities and administrative procedures which arise from the Law for youthful participation and youth policies, especially at the local level, with goal encouragement of bigger youth initiative and participation.

Additionally, all emphasizes the need from systemic introduction of special budget "Youth" item in frames of municipal budgets, which would make possible clearer planning, transparency and sustainability financing of local youth policies.

MUNICIPALITY OF VASILEVO - INTERVIEW WITH NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND YOUTH FROM THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

INITIAL INSTITUTIONAL SETUP OF YOUTH POLICIES

Municipality Vasilevo everything finds in the initial phase of establishment of the mechanisms foreseen with the Law for youthful participation and youth policies. In the moment of the interview, the municipality there is appointed a nominated official for young, while the rest legally foreseen mechanisms, such as local youth council, local strategy for young and youth center, everything still not everything established. The interview indicates that youth policies so far were not systemic developed, and the activities related with young everything realized occasionally and without formalized institutional frame.

PLANS TO ESTABLISH A YOUTH CENTER

How positive step by step, the municipality plans to set aside one floor from the object in ownership of the local self-government with goal of its reconstruction and adaptation in youth center. The realization of this one initiative is conditional from security financial means for reconstruction and equipment of space. This access indicates the existence of institutional readiness for development of youth infrastructure, but also on limited financial capacities characteristic for the smaller municipalities.

LIMITED KNOWLEDGE OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

In the course of the interview was ascertained that part from the municipality administration there is limited knowledge of the Law for youthful participation and youth policies and the specific obligations which arise from this implementation. This one finding indicates the need from additionally institutionally informing and empowering the administrative capacities, especially in the municipalities with smaller administrative resource. The territory of the municipality it works one civil organization, which additionally it limits the local ecosystem for youthful participation and support.

In frames him the implementation field interview , how part from the research process was provided administrative and advisory support for the municipality from side him the organization Pro Local, via delivery package with guidelines and documentation for the process him establishment youth center . This activity represents direct added value from the process him assessment him the influence , enabling practical support towards the municipality in direction him fulfillment him the legal ones obligations .

NEED FOR SYSTEMIC INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

How key recommendation everything highlights the need from systemic information and education him everyone municipalities in the state , especially the smaller ones municipalities and those with newly elected local management , for obligations which arise from The law for youthful participation and youth policies . Additionally , are emphasizes the need from security him purposeful state means through the competent ministry for young , with goal support for establishment and equipment him youth centers , especially in the smaller and rural municipalities where financial capacities represent main obstacle for implementation of the Law.

MUNICIPALITY OF VELES - INTERVIEW WITH NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER

DEVELOPED INSTITUTIONAL SETUP WITH ACTIVE YOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Municipality Veles represents example him municipality with established key mechanisms for implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies . In the municipality has been appointed nominated official for young , and it is established and functional youth center who works him foundation him three-year-old agreement for management , with importance until 2028. In frames him youth center is engaged and certified youth worker , what allows continuous program work with the young people .

He the territory him the municipality they function three youth organizations , from which two everything active and direct included in management and implementation him the programming activities him youth center.

STRATEGIC PLANNING IN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHMENT

Municipality Veles in the moment there is no adopted local strategy for young , but it is planned her/his preparation with support from The program for development him United Nations (UNDP). In Meanwhile , the municipality disposes with program for young through which everything they distinguish financial means for functioning him youth center (450,000 MKD) and support him The local youth advice (100,000 MKD) .

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTING LOCAL YOUTH COUNCIL PROCEDURES

According to the interlocutor , the practical application him the legal ones procedures for formation and functioning him The local youth advice everything facing with administrative challenges . It has been pointed out that the existing one procedure for formation the LMS includes more formal steps , what it complicates and delays the process . How additional challenge everything states the obligation for delivery one-year-old program for work him The local youth advice until October 31 , period in who municipal programs and budgets frames everything still no everything finalized , which creates practical difficulties in planning .

NEED FOR BROADER INSTITUTIONAL INVOLVEMENT

The interview indicates that implementation him The law in practice often everything relies exclusively him the nominee official for young , although obligations which arise from the legal one frame include legal , administrative and financial aspects . In she direction everything emphasizes the need from bigger inclusion him legal services in frames him the municipality administration at the implementation him the legal ones obligations.

NEED TO SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES AND IMPROVE PLANNING

How recommendation everything points out simplification him the procedures for formation him Local youth advice , through opportunity the process yes everything initiate institutional , that is the mayor yes it inform The Council him the municipality for the need from formation on the LMS, after what would followed directly publication public call for choice him members , without establishment initiative board and additional formal steps .

Additionally , all proposes the program for work him The local youth advice yes everything harmonizes with duration him the mandate him the council , instead of yes everything limits him one-year-old period , with goal security continuity and reality planning him the activities .

How significant recommendation was prominent the need from shutdown him the political offspring from the processes him formation and functioning him The local youth advice , with goal preservation him their civil and non-partisan character .

Additionally , all recommends in the process him implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies actively yes everything including lawyers in frames him municipal services , having considering that the nominee official for young no dog independently yes them cover everyone legal and administrative aspects him the implementation .

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF THE VARDAR PLANNING REGION - INTERVIEW WITH THE HEAD AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CENTER 'S PROFESSIONAL ADMINISTRATION

POSITIONING YOUTH WITHIN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

According to The program for development him The Vardar planned region , youth everything treated in frames him the area education , without theirs separation how special priority area in the regional developmental planning. The interview indicates that youth questions everything recognized how relevant , but their integration in regional policies everything takes place indirectly , through wider educational and social measures.

EXISTING YOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE ESTABLISHED THROUGH DONOR SUPPORT

The center for development him The Vardar planned region there is previously experience in implementation him youth activities through European projects . In frames of the IPA program for cross-border cooperation between North Macedonia and Greece was realized project through which is established Youth hub , which represents ownership him The hub space remains functional and accessible . for use from side him interested organizations , institutions and informal youth groups , by submission him accordingly request . The overheads expenses for this functioning everything cover common from side him The center for development him the region and the Municipality of Veles, which allows maintenance him the infrastructure and after completion him the project support .

He the territory him The Municipality of Veles, where the Center is located , also operates **EUROPE HOUSE VELES**, who additionally contributes towards organization him events and activities targeted towards the youth , creating wider offer him youth contents in the region .

REGIONAL COOPERATION AND POTENTIAL FOR STRUCTURED YOUTH PARTICIPATION

The center there is experience with inclusion him civil organizations and local factors in the processes him regional planning and development . In she direction , interlocutors express readiness for establishment Regional platform for young in The Vardar planned region , if the process be supported with technical assistance and coordination from side him civil sector . The regional access everything recognizes how opportunity for better

coordination between the municipalities and for overcoming him the limited capacities him the smaller ones local self-government in implementation him youth policies .

MUNICIPALITY OF BOGOVINJE - INTERVIEW WITH MAYOR AND NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER

INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGAL MECHANISMS IN THE CONTEXT OF A NEW LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Municipality Bogovinje is governed from new local administration formed after recent local elections , at what the interlocutors they point out that everything family with the existence and basic provisions from The law for youthful participation and youth policies , but the process him his/her complete implementation everything is still in developmental phase . In the municipality has been appointed nominated official for young people , and a youth organization has also been established advice with president and volunteers (8–16 members). The Youth advice it works how body connected with The Council him the municipality , at what his/her members everything chosen with decision him the municipality Council . The president and members him the council actively participate in local processes and after need attend him sessions him The Council him the municipality .

INSTITUTIONAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

Parallel with the institutional placement , members nominated from The Council him the municipality they have formed and civil organization registered as " Youth" advice " , with valid current This state . access represents attempt for security operational and project functionality him youth activities through civil sector .

The municipality there is brought formal decisions from side him The Council for :

- establishment him Advice him young people , and
- award space intended for establishment youth center

YOUTH CENTER DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

In the moment him the interview , the youth center everything still no it works and it doesn't provided financing , and in the budget for 2026 no everything foreseen means for this one purpose , having considering that not delivered program for work . The municipality plans security financial support for functioning him youth center through civil " Youth" organization advice " , after implementation him public call . *In frames him the process him interviewing , was agreed additional technical support from side him the organization Pro Local, which will provide directions and package documentation needed for implementation him the procedures for establishment and functionalization him youth center . This represents practical added value resulting from himself process him field assessment .*

NEED FOR SYSTEMIC FINANCIAL SUPPORT

How key recommendation everything highlights the need from establishment mechanisms for state financing him youth centers , with goal security theirs sustainability and support especially in the municipalities with limited local financial capacities .

YOUTH CENTER TETOVO - INTERVIEW WITH MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ENGAGED IN THE YOUTH CENTER TETOVO

ESTABLISHMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE YOUTH CENTER

The youth center Tetovo is established with decision him The Council him The municipality in December 2025 and represents newly formed institutional structure for work with young him local level . The center it works with direct support from the local self-government and with active involvement him the municipality administration . In frames him the center everything engaged four employees persons – lawyer , psychologist , economist and responsible face for coordination him the activities , at what everyone everything employees in

Municipality of Tetovo . According to the interlocutors , there is high level him support and cooperation with the mayor , who contributes towards stability and further development him youth activities .

ACCESSIBILITY AND USE OF YOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE

The youth center disposes with space him attractive and accessible location , in immediate proximity him the central city area and educational institutions . The space in the moment free of charge it use youth , civic organizations and others local groups , including associations him women and craftsmen , by previously delivered request and announcement . The municipality provides financial support for functioning him the center , while in the next one period is planned his/her expansion and transformation in culture youth center , in whose frames will continue yes the youth wing also functions center . In she direction everything considers security him new , bigger rooms with goal expansion him the programming activities .

COMPLIANCE WITH LEGAL MECHANISMS

In the moment him the interview is scheduled procedure for formation him Local youth advice through public competition , while local assembly him young everything still not established . The municipality announces and nominates official for young , with what will everything complete the institutional placement according to The law for youthful participation and youth policies . Additionally , it begins procedure for choice him civil organization which will it manages youth center , according to the legal ones provisions which predict programmatic guidance from side him youth organization .

NEED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION AND STRENGTHENING OF YOUTH CAPACITIES

How proposal for promotion him the application him The law for youthful participation and youth policies everything points out the need from simplification him the administrative ones procedures related with establishment and operation him youth mechanisms him local level . Additionally , the interlocutors me emphasize the need from security trainings and programs for strengthening him the capacities him the young people , with goal theirs more active participation in the job him youth structures and usage him the possibilities what them offers youth center

CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHEAST PLANNING REGION - INTERVIEW WITH THE MANAGER

POSITIONING YOUTH IN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

According to the interlocutor , young people everything recognize how significant developmental category him level him The Northeast planned region . In the valid ones programmatic documents for development him the region youth questions everything treat indirectly , in frames him wider areas related with education , human resources and social development , without theirs separation how special thematic area .

The center inform that in the process him preparation him the new one Program for development him The Northeast planned region for the period 2028–2032 , are plans the young yes be included how special developmental area , with goal more systematic addressing him youth needs and demographics challenges in the region .

LIMITED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IN YOUTH INITIATIVES

In the moment him the interview , the Center there is no realized projects targeted exclusively towards the young , nor in frames him the programs for even regional development , nor through others donor programs . This finding indicates that youth policies everything still no represent operational program area in the job at the Center. The absence him regional youth initiatives additionally it limits the potential for intermunicipal coordination and collaboration addressing him youth challenges him regional level .

READINESS FOR REGIONAL COORDINATION OF YOUTH POLICIES

The Head of the Center express readiness for establishment Regional platform for young in The Northeast planned region , if the process be supported with technical help and initiated in cooperation with civil sector . The regional access everything recognizes how opportunity for better coordination between municipalities , strengthening him youth participation and overcoming him the limited administrative capacities him the smaller ones local self-government .

MUNICIPALITY OF KUMANOVO - INTERVIEW WITH NOMINATED YOUTH OFFICER AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CIVIC ORGANIZATION – MANAGER OF THE YOUTH CENTER KUMANOVO

ADVANCED INSTITUTIONAL SETUP OF YOUTH MECHANISMS

Municipality Kumanovo represents one from the municipalities with most developed institutional frame for implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies . All legally mechanisms foreseen with The law everything incorporated and in The Statute him the municipality , which provides formal compliance him the local working with the national legal frame

In the municipality works :

- nominated official for young people ,
- office for young people ,
- youth center ,
- adopted local strategy for young people .

At the moment him the interview is in flow process him formation Local assembly him young , composed of 26 delegates and the same so much deputies for which is planned additional training with goal strengthening him their capacities .

THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY SECTOR AS A DRIVER OF IMPLEMENTATION

The youth center Kumanovo exists still before the adoption him The law for youthful participation and youth policies and works him foundation him five-year-old agreement for use space . The center it manages civil organization Center for Intercultural Dialogue (CID) , which represents crucial initiator and mover him the processes related with the implementation him The law him local level . The experience from Kumanovo indicates that the active presence him strong local civil organization significantly it facilitates the establishment and functioning him youth mechanisms , while in environments where such actor missing , implementation him the legal ones provisions everything takes place significantly more difficult . The CID organization , through the EU IPA project , previously also established a youth center in Municipality of Lipkovo, which continues to it works with support him volunteers , including volunteers from The Peacemaker corps , and from 2026 everything expects his/her completely alignment with the legal ones provisions .

FUNCTIONALITY AND PROGRAM OPERATION OF THE YOUTH CENTER

The youth center Kumanovo disposes with annual budget from about 600,000 denars , secured from the municipality . The center realize monthly programmatic activities , which everything create him foundation him interests him the young through surveys and direct consultations , as well as through marking him international days and themes events How challenge everything points out the location him the center , which is remote from the central city area and it limits this accessibility for part from the young people .

FINANCIAL AND STRATEGIC CHALLENGES

Despite existence him local strategy for young people , the interlocutors they point out that her implementation is limited because of absence him national strategic frame , which me reduces her practical applicability .

Additionally, the municipality there is no special budget item intended exclusively for youth policies. Everything emphasizes the need from increase him the financial support for youth organizations and placements in complete function him everyone local services for young foreseen with the Law.

NEED FOR CLEAR DEFINITION OF INSTITUTIONAL ROLES

How key recommendations resulting from the interview everything distinguish :

- yes everything provide consistently respect him the weather frame for implementation him everyone mechanisms and services foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies ;
- yes everything establish precisely systematization and clarity defining him the working ones obligations him the officer for young , with goal this role yes be recognized through the whole municipal administration (secretary , mayor and services) , including field work with the young , not exclusively administrative function;
- yes everything increase the budget support for youth centers ;
- yes everything defines the institutional status and role him The local assembly him young after the formation him The local youth advice , with goal avoidance him overlap or institutional ambiguity ;
- yes everything increase the support for youth organizations how key partners in the local implementation of the Law.

MUNICIPALITY OF LIPKOVO - INTERVIEW WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

INITIAL PHASE OF INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE YOUTH CENTER

In Municipality Lipkovo currently it works youth center in the inhabited area Matejce place, which is established how initiative resulting from project activities realized in cooperation with civil organization CID from Kumanovo . The space and beyond everything uses for youth activities , but the municipality express clear intention the same yes be transformed in official youth center according to the provisions from The law for youthful participation and youth policies . In she direction has begun procedure for change him The Statute him the municipality , with goal formally institutionalization him youth center how local service for young people . The municipality disposes with functional object in own ownership which is planned yes be intended for the future functioning him youth center

LIMITED ESTABLISHMENT OF YOUTH MECHANISMS

In the moment him the interview , in Municipality of Lipkovo:

- there is no nominated official for young people ,
- there is no adopted local strategy for young people ,
- no everything established Local youth advice neither Local assembly him young people .

These findings indicate that the implementation him the legal ones mechanisms everything finds in wound developmental phase , despite existence him initiatives and local readiness for promotion him youth policies .

FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND LOCAL COMMITMENT

Despite the absence him formally established youth structures , the municipality provides financial support in amount from about 400,000 denars annually for functioning him youth activities and the existing youth space in Matejce . This access indicates him existence him political will for development him youth services , which precedes him the complete institutional compliance with the Law.

NEED FOR STATE SUPPORT FOR RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

How key recommendation from side him the interlocutors everything stands out the need from security him purposeful state means for equipment and operation him youth centers , especially in rural municipalities , where the limited local budgets represent significant obstacle for establishment and sustainability him the services for young foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies.

CONCLUSIONS FROM FIELD RESEARCH

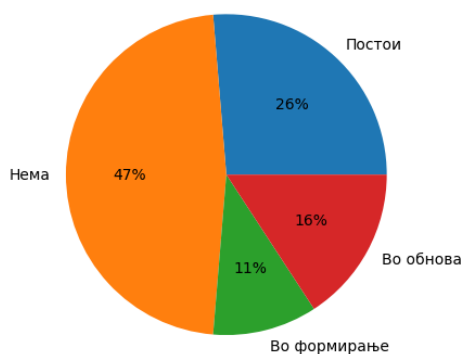
Статус на младински центри во анализираните општини



The analysis him the implemented interviews with representatives him national institutions , centers for even regional development , units him local self-government , youth centers and civic organizations shows that the implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies him local level is significant uneven . The findings indicate that exist clear differences in the degree him establishment and operation him the mechanisms for youthful participation between the bigger ones urban municipalities and smaller and rural municipalities .

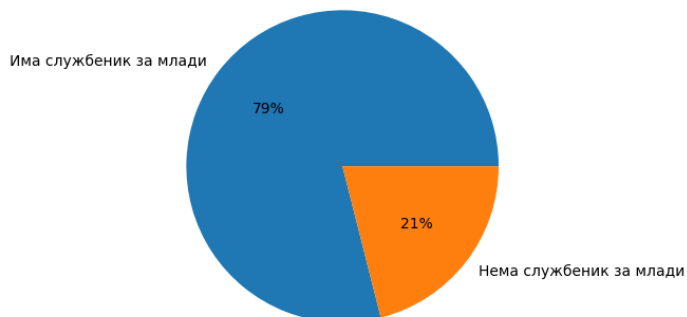
In the larger urban municipalities significantly more often everything established bridge mechanisms foreseen with the Law, how what everything youth centers ,

Статус на локални младински совети во анализираните општини



local youth tips , strategies for young and active youth organizations . In these municipalities exists bigger institutional infrastructure , as well as greater concentration him civil organizations which they work with young people . Opposite that , in the smaller and rural municipalities the implementation him these mechanisms everything takes place slower and often limited only him nomination official for young , without establishment him others structures provided for by the Law.

Статус на службеник за млади во анализираните општини



Important factor who affects him the implementation him The law is **presence. him active civil organizations for young him local level** . In the municipalities where what exist active youth organizations , they often me they have the role him initiators and partners in the establishment and functioning him youth centers , youth tips and others forms him youthful participation . In rural environments , where what civil sector is weaker developed , such processes significantly more difficult everything initiate and maintain .

And the administrative ones capacities him the municipalities represent important factor for successful implementation of the Law. The larger urban municipalities have with bigger administrative resources and easier

they can yes separate human and institutional capacities for development him youth policies . In the smaller and rural municipalities , in turn , the officials often execute more different functions , which it makes it difficult the dedication him specific tasks related with youth policies . In this one context , was also noted that in part from the smaller ones municipalities exists limited knowledge him himself Law for youthful participation and youth policies and obligations which arise from him/her .

The financial support for youth policies him local The level is limited and uneven . In significant number municipalities no exists special budget item for young people , and the means for youth activities everything distribute through different programs and activities . This is especially expressed in the smaller ones municipalities , where what financial resources everything limited and often no exists enough space for systematic financing him youth services and activities .

Overall , the findings from the research indicate that *exist significant structural differences in the possibilities for implementation him The law for youthful participation and youth policies between urban and rural municipalities . These differences everything related with the administrative ones capacities , financial resources , presence him civil organizations and the institutional infrastructure for young people . In more municipalities exist spaces or institutions which actually perform functions similar him youth centers or others youth services , but they no everything established according to the procedures foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies or again exist still before this adoption in 2020. Because of that , although in certain municipalities everything realize activities and there are services for young , they no always everything part from the formal institutional frame foreseen with the Law. Hence , the further development him youth policies need yes them take considering these differences and yes provide additional support for the smaller and rural municipalities in the establishment and functioning him the mechanisms foreseen with the Law.*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND YOUTH POLICIES WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL MUNICIPALITIES

1) REGIONAL APPROACH: REPLICATING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING REGIONAL YOUTH PLATFORMS

1.1. Replication him the model him **The regional platform for young (Pelagonia)** and in others planned regions , such as mechanism for coordination between municipalities , youth organizations and institutions , in particular how support for the smaller and rural municipalities with limited capacities .

1.2. Security **technical support and coordination from civil sector for establishment and strengthening him regional platforms** , which everything recognized from the centers for development how real and useful opportunity .

1.3. Increase him **involvement him the young and in the decisions him regional level** , through more systematic presence and role him the young in regional forums and processes him prioritization .

2) FINANCING: INTRODUCING A SEPARATE BUDGET ITEM "YOUTH" IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES

2.1. In everyone municipal budgets yes everything introduced **special budget item " Youth "** , with goal transparency , traceability and systemic financing him youth policies and services .

2.2. How practically solution , yes everything initiate **change him the circular letter him Ministry for finances** that the budget users , with what would everything made possible budget labeling him the means for young people .

2.3. There where the means for young everything distributed through more programs , yes everything until **consolidation him everyone allocations in unique budget item** , for yes everything avoid dysfunction and unclear planning .

2.4 . For municipalities where The local youth advice not active because of lack of program , yes everything provide **minimal model / template for annual program on the LMS** , with goal yes everything enable allocation funds and yes everything avoid institutional blockade .

3) YOUTH OFFICER: PROFILE, RESPONSIBILITIES AND NUMBER ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE MUNICIPALITY

3.1. Yes everything defines **minimal professional profile and qualifications for the position of " clerk for young people "** , for yes everything avoid formally appointment without real capacity .

3.2. Yes everything establish **precisely systematization and clarity defined working obligations** him the officer for young , recognized through the whole municipal administration (secretary , mayor , departments) , with what the role will be functional and not only administratively solution .

3.3. In **the bigger ones municipalities and multilingual environments** yes everything predict more from one official for young (of example minimum two) , because the volume him work , language structure , the overlap him obligations and needs from institutional memory

4) REDUCING BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES: LMS, LSM AND YOUTH CENTERS

4.1. Yes everything lighten and shorten **the administrative ones procedures for establishment and registration him youth centers and others local services for young people** , because complexity often represents practical obstacle

4.2. Yes everything address **the technical ones inaccuracies and lacks him by-law acts** what me make it difficult the practical application him the law , especially at the formation of LMS/LSM and youth centers .

4.3. Yes everything provide **consistently respect him the weather frame for implementation him mechanisms and services foreseen with the Law** , as systemic obligation .

4.4. Yes everything consider the possibility for **categorization him youth centers according to size and characteristics him the municipalities** , with goal the human and the spatial capacities him the centers yes be appropriate him the number him young and local needs .

5) STATE SUPPORT: FINANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

5.1. Yes everything establish **financial support from the competent ministry for the services for young** which everything legal obligation him municipalities , especially for establishment and operation him youth centers .

5.2. Yes everything provide **clarify practical guidance and reinforcement him the administrative ones capacities** for implementation him The law in the smaller ones municipalities (training , methodological support , mentoring).

5.3. Yes everything strengthen **the system for certification and standardization him youth workers** , with goal security quality youth work and profession standards in functioning him youth centers .

6) AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS TO YOUTH SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

6.1. Yes everything encourage **dispersion him activities and offices him youth centers in smaller and rural populated places** , through use him the existing one municipal infrastructure , with goal improvement him the approach him the young that youth services .

6.2. Yes everything develop **intermunicipal centers for young or common youth spaces** for more rural environments or populated areas , such as functional solution there where one municipality there is no enough capacity .

6.3. Yes everything addresses **the question him transportation and accessibility that youth centers** , especially for the young from remote control populated places .

6.4 . Yes everything develop **mechanisms for systematic mapping him needs him young people** , especially in rural environments , with goal the programs him youth centers yes be more inclusive and better adapted him the local context .

7) MOTIVATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND NETWORKING

7.1. Yes everything consider introduction **compensation or system for records him engagement** for the members on the LMS, as incentive for activity and accountability .

7.2. Yes everything establish **networking him youth organizations and youth centers** , including through platforms for exchange him information and good practices .

7.3. Yes everything speed up the process for **registration him new youth organizations** , with goal strengthening him youth infrastructure .

7.4. Yes everything establish **system for monitoring him fulfillment him obligations from The law for youthful participation and youth policies** , such as mechanism for monitoring him the implementation him the legal ones mechanisms him local level and security bigger institutional accountability .

8. STRENGTHENING HIM INFORMATION AND PARTICIPATION HIM THE YOUNG

With goal yes everything increase interest and participation him the young in the mechanisms foreseen with The law for youthful participation and youth policies , are recommends :

- Organizing short and practical **training for young him local level before formation of LMS and LSM** , for yes everything meet with their role and meaning .
- Implementation **educational activities in the middle ones schools** for The law for youth and opportunities for youthful participation .
- Establishment **cooperation between municipalities and schools** for regularly information and involvement him the young people .
- Enabling **liberation from teaching for the students** at theirs participation in activities of LMS, LSM and others bodies foreseen with the Law.

ANNEX 1 : LIST OF INTERVIEWS CONDUCTED AND INSTITUTIONS COVERED BY THE RESEARCH

No.	Institution / organization	Type	Interviewees faces
1	Ministry for social politics , demography and youth	National institution	representatives him the ministry
2	Assembly him Republic North Macedonia	National institution	President of the Club for Youth Issues and Policies
3	National youth advice him Macedonia	National youth organization	representatives of the NMSM
4	Union for youth work	National organization	representatives him the organization
5	Center for development him Southwest planned region	Planned region	manager and administration
6	Center for development him Southeast planned region	Planned region	manager and administration
7	Center for development him Vardarski planned region	Planned region	manager and administration

No.	Institution / organization	Type	Interviewees faces
8	Center for development him Northeast planned region	Planned region	manager
9	Center for development him Skopje planned region	Planned region	manager
10	Center for development him Eastern planned region	Planned region	manager and administration
11	Center for development him Pelagonian planned region	Planned region	manager
12	Municipality Ohrid	Municipality	Mayor
13	Youth center Ohrid	Youth center	team him youth center
14	Municipality Bitola	Municipality	Mayor and official for young
15	Municipality Resen	Municipality	Mayor and nominated youth officer
16	Municipality Dolneni	Municipality	representative him municipal administration
17	Municipality Chucher Sandevo	Municipality	representative him municipal administration and nominated youth officer
18	Municipality Center	Municipality	representatives him the municipality and a nominated youth officer
19	Municipality Karbinci	Municipality	representative him the municipality
20	Municipality Pehchevo	Municipality	representative him the municipality
21	Municipality Strumica	Municipality	official for young
22	Municipality Vasilevo	Municipality	official for youth , administration
23	Municipality Veles	Municipality	official for young
24	Municipality Bogovinje	Municipality	Mayor and official for young
25	Municipality Kumanovo	Municipality	official for young
26	Municipality Lipkovo	Municipality	boss him Mayor's office and administration
27	Municipality Kavadarci	Municipality	official for young and member on the LMS
28	Municipality Struga	Municipality	official for young
29	Municipality Gostivar	Municipality	official for young
30	Municipality Sparrowhawk	Municipality	Mayor of the municipality and representatives him the municipality
31	Youth center Tetovo	Youth center	municipal officials
32	Edu center Negrevo	Civil organization	representatives him the organization

No.	Institution / organization	Type	Interviewees faces
33	Center for research and development – CID Kumanovo	Civil organization	representatives him the organization