



Youth Employability Skills (YES) Network

Project background

The Youth Employability Skills (YES) Network is a five-year project implemented by the US non-profit organization Education Development Center (EDC), and funded through the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The project targets three groups of youth aged 15-27: students in their final year in Macedonia's secondary schools, unemployed registrants with the Employment Service Agency (ESA) and other out-of-school, unemployed and unregistered youth. Within the project scope is to work directly with secondary school teachers, staff from local ESA centers and NGOs that work with these young people.

Goal

The main goal of the Youth Employability Skills (YES) Network is to enhance the employability skills of youth in Macedonia.

Objectives

1. Facilitate Public-Private Dialogue that will improve demand-supply labor exchange at the local level
2. Strengthen the capacities of NGOs and DPOs for development of employability skills in youth
3. Strengthen the capacity of the Employment Services Agency to provide better services to registered unemployed youth, including youth with disabilities, such as training in work-readiness skills, access to structured work-based learning opportunities, and up-to-date information on job openings and career development opportunities.
4. Provide continuing professional development opportunities for teachers in secondary schools.
5. Create innovative mechanisms to make secondary schools and VET Centers more responsive and relevant
6. Integrate productive connections with current and planned USAID and other donor workforce related activities.

Activities

- Establishing Local Economic and Social Council in municipalities included in project activities.
- Developing three main programs for youth:
 - Work readiness skills (WRS)
 - Work based learning (WBL)
 - Career counseling certification(CCC)
- Adaptation of these programs for youth with disabilities
- Training facilitators to implement the three programs with youth. The trainer profiles are: Secondary school teachers, VET advisors, NGO staff and ESA staff.
- Implementing WRS and WBL programs with youth, including youth with disabilities.
- Creating Individual Career Plans
- Equipping the facilitators with skills for filming and sharing their best practices.
- Upgrading Career Centers in secondary schools
- Upgrading Job Clubs in ESA Centers.

Education Development Center - EDC

EDC is a global nonprofit organization that develops, delivers and evaluates innovative programs to solve some of the world's most urgent challenges in education, health, and economic development.

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