



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
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EUROPEAN UNION – YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

SHTIP – 19th-22th SEPTEMBER 2022





PARTICIPATORY MEETING IN NORTH MACEDONIA

ORGANISATIONS



Reflection on Europe (ROE): Since 2018, we have been cooperating with young people from Świętokrzyskie Voivodeshio in Poland. Youth who creates and works in ROE come from various background and have extensive experience in cooperation with young people an in the implementation of European projects. We focus on increasing knowledge about European Union - its history, activities and values, increasing youth participation in social, civic and political engagement and decision-making, creating opportunities for dialogue, meetings and exchange of experiences, involving young people in the formal educational process and promoting intercultural dialogue.



Youth on Board: Founded in 2018, Youth on Board is a youth-driven non-profit organization based in the University Town of Shtip, North Macedonia, striving to promote youth development and empowerment through philanthropy, Run by youths, for youths, we plan and execute events to show the impact one can make in the community while encouraging the act of giving back. We believe in the power of education to transform young people's lives, families and communities for the better. We promote best practise in youth development by giving young people and people working with youth advice, training and resources. Our organization develops and promotes Active Youth Citizenship. Those are young people using knowledge, skills and experience to participate confidently in their communities



ETV EuroTreviso is a non-profit organisation established in 2016 by a group of young professionals promoting active citizenship and human rights as well as social inclusion, volunteer activities and international cooperation. The Staff of ETV already had experience in international mobility programmes in different fields as volunteering, training and education projects (LLP Leonardo, Erasmus+, ESF). ETV aims to develop and to implement strategies and local, national and international programmes giving young people the basics and the tools to address international partnership with similar organizations in order to create a knowledge exchange to improve practises in no-formal education



PARTICIPATORY MEETING IN NORTH MACEDONIA

INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Poland:

Aleksandra Niewczas – Member of ROE

Magdalena Smorańiewicz – Member of ROE

Piotr Styczeń - Youth

Maciej Kania - Youth



North Macedonia:

Kiril Jordanov – President of Youth on Board

Todor Marjanovikj – Youth

Helena Zografoska - Youth

Elena Panova - Youth

Kristina Gashtarova - Youth



Italy:

Giuseppe Virga – Expert

Maria Ceo - Youth

Christian Casagrande - Youth

Matthias de Chiara - Youth





PARTICIPATORY MEETING IN NORTH MACEDONIA

ABOUT THE PROJECT AND PROGRAM

AIM OF THE PROJECT:

The project “The European Union – Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow” aims to raise awareness of the history of the European Union and to show the benefits of EU membership, especially for young people. Thanks to the participation of organizations from countries with different experience of European integration (Italy – founding member), Poland (member since 2004), North Macedonia (candidate country), young people will learn about different perspectives of integration and approaches to the Union itself. What is equally important, our actions will not take place in large cities but in smaller locations, so we can reach people who have limited access to information.

A number of actions are planned under the project: 3 events entitled “EU Festival” in each partner country with debates; table discussions; European workshops for young people; the European Union knowledge contest and the presentation of youth works. In addition to young people, representatives of all partner countries, external experts, local authorities, lecturers and seniors will participate in the meetings.

A conference summarizing the project will be held at the end of the project. The works prepared by young people in the “I-European” competition will be the primary result of its implementation. All works will be translated into English and presented on the Internet websites. Winners of individual competitions will go abroad to specific events with partners. In addition a brochure summarizing the project will be produced at the end of the project. It will be sent to the most important people and institutions of culture, local authorities, politicians, etc.



PARTICIPATORY MEETING IN NORTH MACEDONIA

PROGRAMME:

19TH SEPTEMBER

09:00 - 18:00 ARRIVALS (accommodation in Hotel Izgrev in Shtip)

18:30 - 19:00 Coordinator's meeting

19:00 - 21:00 Welcome dinner

20TH SEPTEMBER

10:00 - 10:15 Introduction to the project program and topic discussion

10:15 - 10:30 Icebreakers games and Partners presentations

10:30 - 11:30 Macedonian youth and the EU: A tale of opportunities MA in International Relations - Stefan Andonovski

11:30 - 12:00 Coffee discussion

12:00 - 13:45 How I see Europe in 15 years – group workshop

13:45 - 15:30 Lunch

16:00 - 17:00 Presentation of How I see Europe in 15 years

17:00 - 19:00 Visit to the house of the first president of Macedonia



PARTICIPATORY MEETING IN NORTH MACEDONIA

PROGRAMME:

21ST SEPTEMBER

10:00 - 10:30 Energizers and Icebreakers

10:30 - 11:00 Fun facts about Europe and Europe quiz

11:00 - 12:00 Referendum – age of youth (simulation)

12:00 - 12:30 Lobbying coffee break

12:30 - 13:00 Presentation of the campaigns! Voting –
Referendum

13:00 - 15:30 Lunch

15:30 - 16:00 "I, European" presentation and voting
for the winner

16:00 - 18:00 What to see in Shtip - cultural tour

18:00 – 19:00 Free time around the city

22ND September

09:00 - 10:00 Meeting with the Mayor of the City of
Shtip

10:00 - 11:00 Evaluation

11:00 - 20:00 Departures

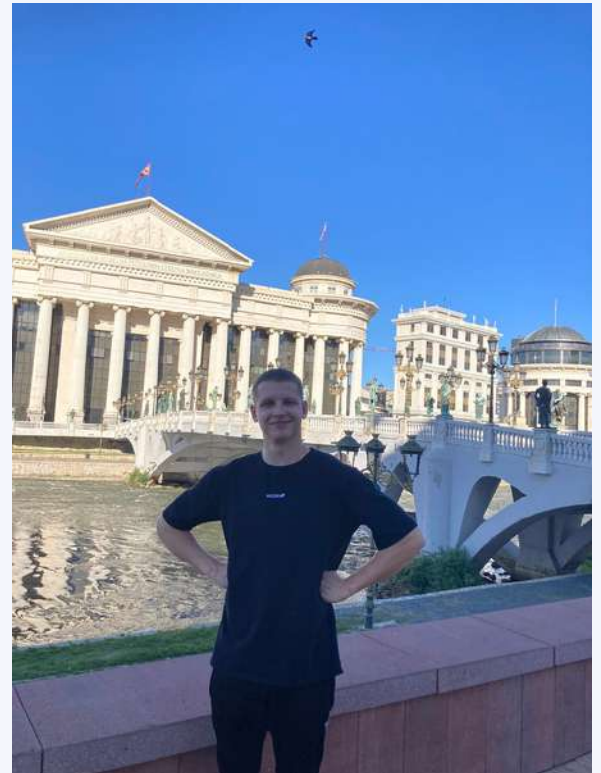


EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 1

1st day

Our first - traveling day to North Macedonia gave us the opportunity to sightsee the capital – Skopje. We saw the city center, beautiful monuments, and many historical landmarks. After the travel, all of our participants gathered in the Hotel Izgrev in Shtip. Some of us knew each other from previous parts of the project, but there were some new faces to meet as well. We sat together for the dinner to talk about our expectations and plans for the future. Additionally, the coordinators met to discuss the agenda and project management issues, financial matters, timetable, and risk analysis.





EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 2

10:00

On the second day, we started with an introduction to the program of the project. We discussed the topic of the project and evaluate what we've done so far. Then we switched to quick energizers and icebreaking games to get to know each other even better.

11:30

After a quick coffee break we were ready for the first workshop with Stefan Andonovski – Master of Art in International Relations and International Economics. Together with the Macedonian youth from the city we talked about the opportunities they have. We also mentioned the difficulties North Macedonia is facing, and how it is affecting the youth. Perspectives from different countries gave us a wider view on the issues we were discussing





EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 2

EXPERT OF THE DAY

Stefan Andonovski



Stefan Andonovski holds a Master's degree in International Relations and International Economics from Johns Hopkins University in the United States, at the School of Advanced International Sciences (SAIS). He works in Macedonia as a consultant and advisor for international cooperation and communications in numerous domestic and foreign private companies. In addition to the party engagement, Stefan is involved in the work of numerous organizations in the NGO sector as a project manager and consultant. He speaks Macedonian, English, Italian and Serbian, and is fluent in German.





EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 2

12:30

After small introduction of the topic by our expert, our task of the day was to answer the questions – How I see Europe in 15 years? We worked in international groups which gave us different points of view and different perspective. On the poster we were suppose to do we shared our hopes, plans but also threats we can face. Every group presented their project and gave the concussions.





EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 2

16:00

After the lunch, we visited the House of the first President of North Macedonia - Kiro Gligorov

Youth from North Macedonia, told us the history of the president's elections and how important this was for the whole country.

Gligorov became the first democratically elected president of the Republic of Macedonia. During his presidency, he promoted multi-party elections and market economy and was instrumental in helping Macedonia fulfill its century's old ideal for attaining an equal place in the international family of nations. He is credited for keeping the Republic of Macedonia out of the war in the former Yugoslavia. Our Macedonian friends emphasize how important the place we were is for the whole country and how North Macedonia developed in international arena thanks to the leadership of Kiro Gligorov





EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 3

10:00

We started again with a small energizer and introduction to the plan of the day.

Macedonian youth presented us with their works from the contest "I European" and after the poll, we chose the winner who will participate in next meeting.



1 place

Angeliche
Petrushevski

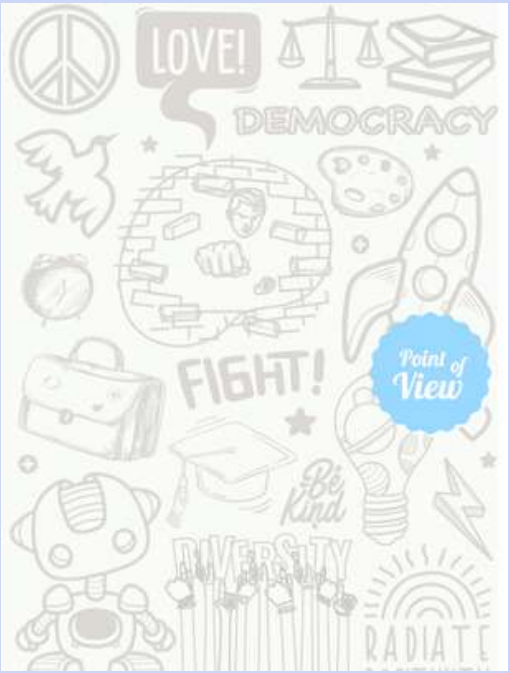
Photo made by the author showed the beauty of the day and the future that European Union can give us. The work was a symbol of development and unity of Europe.



EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 3

more work of students:
Iskra, Andrej, Elizabeta





EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 2

EXPERTS OF THE DAY

Kiril Jordanov



President and Coordinator of Youth on Board, economist, advisor for public procurement, and Coordinator for implementing the strategy for youth in the Local government in Shtip. He is also a private advisor for financial-legal and administrative procedures. Kirill has a professional background in domestic and international projects as an organizer and applicant.

Todor Marjanovikj



A student of the University of Shtip, a youth leader in Youth on Board, has a wide experience in Erasmus+ projects. Expert in youth policy.



EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 3

12:00

Simulation Game – The Referendum.

A Simulation Game is a method that simulates and simplifies a complex real-life situation and its processes in a role play. The aim of a simulation game is to give the participants an insight into the problems and relations of a real-life situation. They should be encouraged to take different points of view and to reflect on their own decisions and actions. They provide a secure setting for participants to try out how to act or react in a new role and to reflect on the consequences of their behavior. Simulations are often used in business education and training as well as in political education.

The participants were divided into 5 international groups – 4 political parties with different perspectives and the 5th additional group was the voting society.

They were representing:

- Diversity
- Populist
- Urban
- Traditionalist



EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 3

The political parties were responsible for preparing political campaigns and delivering their point of view, to the voters – citizens can answer the Referendum questions:

*Should the age of voting be lowered or lifted?
Can young people affect change in their community?*

The Referendum allows citizens, through the petition process, to refer acts to the ballot before they become law. The referendum also permits acts for approval or rejection during voting. The primary purpose of the Referendum is to give voters an opportunity to approve or reject laws either proposed or enacted by the Parties. The groups were talking about initial thoughts per party and working on campaigns for their opinion. Their aim was to encourage the group of voting society

After the presentations of the campaigns, the results of the referendum question were: not to lower the age of voting. The electorate decided that the law should not be changed, as a matter of education, the level of sensitivity of youth and their own will.



EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 3





EU EVENT IN NORTH MACEDONIA

DAY 4

Above the bidding agenda, during the whole project, we were talking about the current situation in the world.

Debating our few perspectives on European security, lead us to the conversations about the future of the European Union. We formulated casual scenarios and share our feelings.

In light of Russian aggression on Ukraine, it is crucial for European countries to work together and support each other as the Union does. Especially when North Macedonia is one of seven current candidate countries waiting for accession to the European Union.





Piotr from Poland:

What I liked the most in Macedonia was that I could see the country that's not in the EU. Of course meeting local people and youth as always expanded my knowledge on different topics and made me learn what are the youth's needs in North Macedonia.

Maria from Italy:

Taking part in the Macedonian meeting was a unique experience. During our three days meetings, we took part in different workshops which allowed us to discuss with youngsters from different countries. In particular, during the project we had the opportunity to chat with Macedonian youngsters and find out more about the political situation, about their culture and about their daily lives. This project allowed me to know more about a country which wished to enter European Union, and it allowed me also to realize the benefits I have as an European citizen





Helena from North Macedonia:

Some time ago, I had the opportunity to be part of the project "The EU: yesterday, today, tomorrow" that took place in Shtip, Macedonia. There were participants from Macedonia, Poland and Italy and we discussed about several topics such as how we see the development of EU in the future, what are its advantages and disadvantages etc.. Furthermore we had an "election" activity where we split in four parties that had different values and morals and each party had to gain a vote from the "citizens". It was a very fun experience from which I've learnt many new things about EU and broadened my perspectives. I'm keen on these types of projects and can't wait for the next one.

Christian from Italy:

I had great fun meeting people around the world, and the opportunity to share our experiences but also exchange our teenage thoughts about the EU.





Maciej from Poland:
I learned about interesting projects implemented by the government of North Macedonia. It was possible to exchange views with the project participants. I improved my ability to work in a group.



Matthias from Italy: Our project was an amazing opportunity to exchange opinions with youth from different countries. Activities gave us a lot of chances to develop our skills. It definitely made me more confident in public speeches. What I love the most in those projects is the diversity of the participants. It never gets boring having so many amazing minds to share thoughts with.