



NEWSLETTER

Promoting Active inclusion of Disadvantaged Persons Excluded from the Labour Market

NEWSLETTER CONTENTS

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1. What has been done?

Training for vulnerable groups of people & internship programme

In the period from 25th of October till 8th of November highly successful and practical oriented training for vulnerable groups of people was implemented, on 4 different locations (Skopje, Kumanovo, Veles and Ohrid). The program was structured in five sections which came out as direct recommendation from the previously developed Training needs analyzes of the vulnerable groups of people. The sections are the following:

- Effective communication
- Emotional intelligence (coping with bad emotions)
- Practical know how for applying for a job
- Conflict resolution
- Mentoring process

Following the initial training, an internship programme oriented in enhancing the employment potentials of people at risk of social exclusion by promoting individual pathways towards employment has been initiated and will have been implemented by the end of the project (8/2017).

Art Contest

In the period of 7th of October till 30th of November call for artistic works was opened, called "Volunteers for social inclusion". The competition participation has been open for the general public. Total number of artworks received is 93, 70 of those were in the category picture and photography and 23 in writing. All artworks were exhibited throughout the networking corners implemented for the project in Skopje, Ohrid, Tetovo and Kumanovo and yet during the mid-term conference held on the 2nd of March in Skopje.

Mid term conference

On 02 March 2017, the mid term conference was organized in Skopje, in order to present the achievements of the project and the upcoming activities. Project team members presented the project, its achievements and upcoming activities. In addition speakers from MLSP and ESA talked about the labor market measures and programmes that tackle the problem with unemployment of disadvantaged persons, while representatives from local NGOs talked about the problems of the disadvantaged persons in terms of employability. Yet, during the conference, the best submissions of the art competition "Volunteers for social inclusion" were announced and awarded. More than 50 persons, representatives from NGOs, education system, international institutions (World Bank, ILO, Embassy of the Netherlands in Skopje) and other stakeholders attended the conference.

Networking Corners: connecting Bridge - Coffee with employer

For networking and activation of unemployed and the employers in the process of employment, 4 Coffee with employer events were organized. The locations were the following; Skopje, Kumanovo, Ohrid and Tetovo. Followed by extremely positive atmosphere employers were sharing tips and tricks for the process of employment and the future active members on the labor market were asking questions and sharing experiences.

Mentorship and Internship program

Within the framework of the mentoring programme, mentors for Social Inclusion work with individuals from the target group 'mentees'. Mentors besides supporting labour market activation for the target group, have also the opportunity to test their skills on the ground. The overall programme is in full pace by having involved 12 mentors who are in total mentoring 22 persons. The overall pilot process will evaluate the mentoring methodology that has been elaborated during the previous phase of the project in order to fine-tune the final mentoring process and the respective "manual for mentors".

Panel discussions

During February 2017, three (3) panel discussions were organized in various regions (Ohrid, Tetovo and Kumanovo). In each of the panel discussions relevant stakeholders including professors, professionals working with the target group, representatives from CSOs and unemployed people were present. The main topics of the panel discussions were the problems and opportunities for employment in different regions in the country. Different stakeholders attended as speakers and as visitors as well. Many NGOs that worked with particular disadvantaged groups as well as particular unemployed persons talked about the problems they face with at the labor market, while representatives of the Employment Centers, Centers for social work and Education system, talked about the opportunities for employment of these particular categories. The discussions were very awakening about the current situation of the process of employment. Each panel discussion was media covered, so the core project team members shared their statements and conclusions.



2. What's next?

Delivery of Training to a Larger Group of Professionals, Future 'Mentors for Social Inclusion'. Following up on the ToT, the Project team will organise a training to 60 social professionals from the Employment Centres and the Centres for Social Work, in order to enable a larger number of employment and social welfare professionals from the various regions (Skopje, Northeast region, Southwest region, Vardar region, Polog region) to become acquainted with the Social Mentoring model. This activity is scheduled to be implemented in June 2017.

Five seminars are scheduled to be conducted in June with the participation of overall 100 key stakeholders from the public, private and the third sector involved in the delivery of employment and social inclusion services and/or actions and projects for vulnerable groups. During the seminars, the participants will have the opportunity to share experiences focusing on local success stories as well as on showcasing EU and international 'best practice' having a high potential to be replicated in specific regions and/or country-wide.



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