



Support For Policy Reforms , Accession
and Effectiveness (SUPRAE)



***SECTOR WORKING GROUP
SECTOR “EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL
POLICY”***

XIII PLENARY MEETING

14 NOVEMBER 2023



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Република Северна Македонија

Министерство за труд
и социјална политика



Republika e Maqedonisë së Veriut

Ministria e Punës
dhe Politikës Sociale

SECTOR WORKING GROUP
Sector “Education, Employment and Social Policy”

XIII PLENARY MEETING

I SESSION





NATIONAL FRAMEWORK

NATIONAL SECTORAL POLICIES

1. NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA 2021-2027
2. NEW YOUTH GUARANTEE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (YGIP) 2023-2026
3. NATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY 2018-2025
4. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA 2021-2027
5. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN'S ENTREPRENEURSHIP 2019-2023
6. NATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION 2022-2032
7. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DEINSTITUTIONALISATION "TIMJANIK" 2018-2027
8. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ROMA INCLUSION 2022-2030 AND ITS NAPS IN PRIORITY AREAS
9. STRATEGY FOR GENDER EQUALITY 2022-2027
10. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2023-2030 (UNDER PREPARATION)

NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK

1. LABOUR LAW
2. LAW ON EMPLOYMENT AND INSURANCE IN CASE OF UNEMPLOYMENT
3. LAW ON RECORDKEEPING IN THE FIELD OF LABOUR
4. LAW ON EMPLOYMENT OF DISABLED PERSONS
5. SOCIAL PROTECTION LAW
6. CHILD PROTECTION LAW
7. LAW ON SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE ELDERLY
8. FAMILY LAW
9. LAW ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OF WOMEN AND MEN (NEW LAW ON GENDER EQUALITY - UNDER PREPARATION)
9. NEW LAW ON SOCIAL ENTERPRISES (UNDER PUBLIC REVIEW)



EMPLOYMENT POLICIES AND LABOUR LEGISLATION

MID-TERM PRIORITIES:

- REDUCING THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE.
- ACTIVATING CITIZENS WHO ARE LESS EMPLOYABLE AND FACILITATING THEIR EMPLOYMENT.
- DEALING WITH UNEMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE UP TO THE AGE OF 29.
- REAL PROTECTION OF EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS.
- ENSURING HIGHER STANDARDS FOR THE SAFE PERFORMANCE OF WORK TASKS AT WORKPLACES.

CHALLENGES:

- TO PROVIDE DIRECT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH SELF-EMPLOYMENT (GRANT AND LENDING).
- SUPPORT OF ALREADY ESTABLISHED LEGAL ENTITIES FOR THEIR FUNCTIONALITY AND DEVELOPMENT (SALARY SUBSIDIES, ETC.)
- IMPLEMENTATION OF DIFFERENT TYPES OF TRAININGS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF WORK SKILLS.

LEGAL TOOLS FOR ACHIEVING PRIORITIES AND DEALING WITH CHALLENGES:

- IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA 2021-2027.
- ADOPTION OF A NEW NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2024-2027, WHICH IS AN EXECUTIVE DOCUMENT OF NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY 2021-2027.
- IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW YOUTH GUARANTEE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (YGIP) 2023-2026.
- ADOPTION OF A NEW LAW ON LABOR RELATIONS.
- ADOPTION OF A NEW LAW ON SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK.
- ADOPTION OF LAW ON EMPLOYMENT AND INSURANCE IN CASE OF UNEMPLOYMENT.





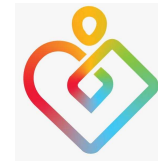
EMPLOYMENT OF VULNERABLE GROUPS & SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MID-TERM PRIORITIES:

- DIGITIZATION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR EXERCISING RIGHTS TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM SOCIAL PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES AND IMPROVEMENT OF INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION.
- DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES FOR SOCIAL INTEGRATION AND EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES FOR EMPLOYMENT.
- STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF SOCIAL WORK CENTRES AND EMPLOYMENT CENTRES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF PLANS FOR ACTIVATION OF GMP BENEFICIARIES WITH AN EMPHASIS ON YOUNG PEOPLE.

CHALLENGES:

- LOW MOTIVATION OF GMP USERS FOR EMPLOYMENT.
- INSUFFICIENT COOPERATION OF SWC AND EC IN THE AREA OF ACTIVATION.
- LOW LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYED PERSONS.
- ABSENCE OF WORK TRAINING SERVICES.





SOCIAL CARE & DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES

MID-TERM PRIORITIES:

- IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW ON ASSESSMENT SYSTEM FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.
- IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES 2023-2030.
- CONTINUATION OF PROCESS OF DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND TRANSFORMATION OF FACILITIES FOR ACCOMMODATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (DEMIR KAPIJA AND BANJA BANSKO) AND CREATION OF NEW SERVICES, 8 MILLION EUR (IPA 2024-2027).
- IMPLEMENTATION OF A SECOND PROJECT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

CHALLENGES:

- LACK OF PROFESSIONALS, ESPECIALLY IN SMALLER MUNICIPALITIES.
- ABSENCE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (INTEGRATION OF SERVICES).
- INTRODUCTION OF A SYSTEM FOR MONITORING AND STANDARDS FOR THE QUALITY OF SOCIAL SERVICES.



Social assistance



Social facilities



Social services



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE

MID-TERM PRIORITIES:

- **PREPARATION OF ACTION PLAN ON RIGHTS OF CHILDREN IN ACCORDANCE WITH OBLIGATIONS FROM THE CONVENTION ON RIGHTS OF CHILD AND EUROPEAN STRATEGY FOR RIGHTS OF CHILD 2023-2026.**
- **ADOPTION OF NATIONAL PARENTING STRATEGY 2023-2030 AND ACTION PLAN FOR 2023-2025 – RAISING AWARENESS FOR RESPONSIBLE PARENTING WITH AN AIM OF PROMOTION AND SUPPORT OF WELLBEING OF CHILDREN.**
- **CHANGE OF FORMULA FOR FINANCING SYSTEM OF EDUCATION AND CARE - UNDER PREPARATION WHICH WILL CHANGE THE AMOUNT OF COSTS THE PARENTS NEED TO PAY (AN OBJECTIVE - FOR POORER FAMILIES AND SINGLE PARENTS TO PAY LESS, I.E. TO BE EXEMPTED FROM PAYMENTS).**
- **REFORM OF SYSTEM FOR EARLY DETECTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION OF CHILDREN WITH AFFECTED HEALTH.**
- **INVESTING IN NEW CAPACITIES FOR PRESCHOOL EDUCATION AND CARE - INCREASE OF COVERAGE OF CHILDREN AND ENSURING GREATER EQUITY IN ACCESS FOR ALL CHILDREN TO PRESCHOOL EDUCATION.**

CHALLENGES:

- **TO ENSURE THAT ALL FAMILIES HAVE SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN.**
- **TO ENSURE EQUAL AND GOOD EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND CHILDREN FROM FAMILIES AT RISK OF POVERTY.**





PENSION REFORM AND DISABILITY INSURANCE

MID-TERM PRIORITIES:

- ESTABLISHMENT OF SINGLE UNIFIED SOCIAL INSURANCE REGISTER.
- ENGAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE ON ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION, ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITIES, AND IT INFRASTRUCTURE OF INSTITUTIONS TO COPE WITH APPLICATION OF COORDINATION REGULATION 883/2004 AND AMENDMENTS, THERETO AND REGULATION 987/2009 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO UPON FULL MEMBERSHIP OF NORTH MACEDONIA IN EU.
- LIBERALIZATION OF LABOR MARKET, THROUGH CHANGES IN THE EXISTING LEGISLATION AND ADOPTION OF NEW LAWS (AMENDMENTS TO LAW ON EMPLOYMENT AND WORK OF FOREIGNERS AND LAW ON FOREIGNERS).

CHALLENGES:

- TRANSFER OF EXISTING DATA REGISTERS TO SEPARATE INSTITUTIONS IN SINGLE UNIFIED SOCIAL INSURANCE REGISTER.
- LINKING OF SOCIAL INSURANCE INSTITUTIONS AND EXCHANGE OF DATA WITH SINGLE UNIFIED SOCIAL INSURANCE REGISTER.
- CONNECTION OF SINGLE UNIFIED SOCIAL INSURANCE REGISTER WITH EU ESSI SYSTEM AND EXCHANGE OF DATA ON SOCIAL COORDINATION.
- PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN ANALYSIS OF EXISTING LEGISLATION AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF INSTITUTIONS OF SYSTEM IN COMPLIANCE WITH EU ACQUIS, TRAINING OF EMPLOYEES, UPGRADING OF SYSTEMS OF INSTITUTIONS, AMENDMENTS TO EXISTING AND ADOPTION OF NEW LEGISLATION IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH EU LEGISLATION.
- PROVIDE QUALIFIED WORKING FORCE.





EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

MID-TERM PRIORITIES:

- ADOPTION OF DRAFT LAW ON GENDER EQUALITY.
- ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECRETARIAT FOR GENDER EQUALITY WITHIN GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA
- ADOPTION OF RULEBOOK FOR INTEGRATED COLLECTION OF DATA ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
- ADOPTION OF A PROGRAM FOR REINTEGRATION OF WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.
- ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE.
- ENHANCEMENT OF THE LAW ON PREVENTION AND PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE GREATER INDEPENDENCE AND FUNCTIONALITY OF THE COMMISSION FOR PREVENTION AND PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION
- ADOPT RULEBOOK ON STATEMENT OF GENDER BUDGETING STEAMING FROM ORGANIC BUDGET LAW.
- ADOPT AMENDMENTS TO METHODOLOGY FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING AND PREPARATION OF ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM.
- CAPACITY BUILDING AND RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS.

CHALLENGES:

- ALIGNMENT OF LEGAL REGULATIONS WITH LAW ON PREVENTION AND PROTECTION AGAINST DISCRIMINATION.
- DEVELOPMENT OF A SPECIAL STRATEGIC GOAL OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION 2022–2026 (ANNEX) FOR THE LGBT+.
- ESTABLISHED SYSTEM FOR INTEGRATED DATA COLLECTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.





ROMA INTEGRATION

MID-TERM PRIORITIES:

- IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR ROMA EMPLOYMENT.
- ACTIVATION OF ROMA RETURNERS ON LOCAL LEVEL.
- EDUCATION FOR ROMA AT ALL LEVELS.
- CIVIL REGISTRATION FOR ALL CITIZENS UP TO 2024.
- AFFORDABLE SOCIAL HOUSING FOR ROMA AND VULNERABLE GROUPS.

CHALLENGES:

- REINTEGRATION OF ROMA AT LABOUR MARKET (PROGRAMME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP, EDUCATION AND TRAININGS, AND INFORMATION).
- INCLUSION OF RETURNEES IN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL PROTECTION.
- ACCOMPLISHMENT OF A QUOTA OF 2% INCLUSION OF ROMA CHILDREN IN PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION AND CARE.
- IDENTIFICATION OF PERSONS WITHOUT IDS AND SUCCESSFUL PROVISION OF IDS.
- IMPLEMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURAL PROJECTS IN ROMA SETTLEMENTS.





DISCUSSION





Република Северна Македонија
Министерство за образование и наука



Republika e Maqedonisë së Veriut
Ministria e Arsimit dhe Shkencës

SECTOR WORKING GROUP
Sector “Education, Employment and Social Policy”

XIII PLENARY MEETING

II SESSION





Primary education



Quality of the Primary Education

Reform in primary education - successive introduction of new curricula and programs for primary education (from the 2021/2022 school year).

- ✓ The school year 2023/2024 began with the reformed teaching process for students from the sixth grade, which closed the reformed cycle in the first and second periods of primary education (ISCED 1 and ISECD 2)
- ✓ The curriculum for the 2024/2025 school year is adopted, and with that the reforms are introduced in the seventh grade





Systemic regulation of primary education of minors in correctional and penitentiary institutions

- The Government procedure with proposed amendments to the Law on Primary Education has been passed
- Within the MoES, an amendment to the Regulation on the systematization of workplaces has been proposed, with which, pending the adoption of the amendments to the Law, it is proposed to open a Department for teachers who carry out educational activities for children who undergo an educational measure, referral to an educational institution. correctional facility in order to find a solution for continuous provision of teaching in correctional institutions.
- The challenge is the systematic solution, among other things, of the curricula and the pedagogical documentation for these students



Digitization in Primary Education



Network infrastructure is being upgraded in 40 primary schools through the PEIP Project. This activity will cover 23.782 students and 3126 teachers.

Through the Ministry of Education, for the 2023/2024 school year, textbooks for the 4th, 5th and 6th grades will be digitized. This activity will cover 61789 students.



Training of teachers and professional associates - 1

- Within the scope of the World Bank Primary Education Improvement Project, The Bureau for Development of Education organized accredited trainings for teachers and professional associates in primary education in the period 2022-2023
- BDE issued Catalogue of Accredited Programs for teachers and professional associates consisting of 22 programs in total.
- During the first training cycle in 2022, a total of 14.884 teachers and professional associates in primary education were trained.
- In the second cycle in 2023, 14 510 teachers and professional associates in primary education were trained.
- For the duration of the training project, the BDE is planning to provide training for all teachers and professional associates in accordance with the requirements for professional development stipulated in the Law on Teachers and Professional Associates
- In the period 2024-2025 the estimates are that at least 30 000 teachers and professional associates in primary education will be trained





Training of teachers and professional associates - 2

- The BDE is providing continuous support to the teachers and professional associates through regular trainings in different areas of professional development. Approximately 5000 teachers were trained for the new curriculum in primary education.
- Currently, there are ongoing trainings for primary education teachers for media literacy and mental health.





National Testing and participation on International testing

National Testing

- In 2023, according to the Concept for National Testing in Primary Education, pre-testing in the fifth grade was conducted
- Processing of the data and measurement of the psychometric characteristics of the tasks in order to select appropriate tasks for the main testing in the fifth grade, which will be conducted at the end of the academic year 2023/2024, is in progress.
- At the end of 2023, the report on the results of the main test conducted in 2022 for third grade students will be published





National Testing and participation on International testing

International Testing

- In 2023, the main testing for the international study TIMSS 2023 and pre-testing for the international study TALIS 2024 were conducted
- Preparations are underway for the international testing that will be conducted in the first half of 2024, i.e. the main testing for TALIS 2024 and pre-testing for PISA 2025.





Optimization of the school network



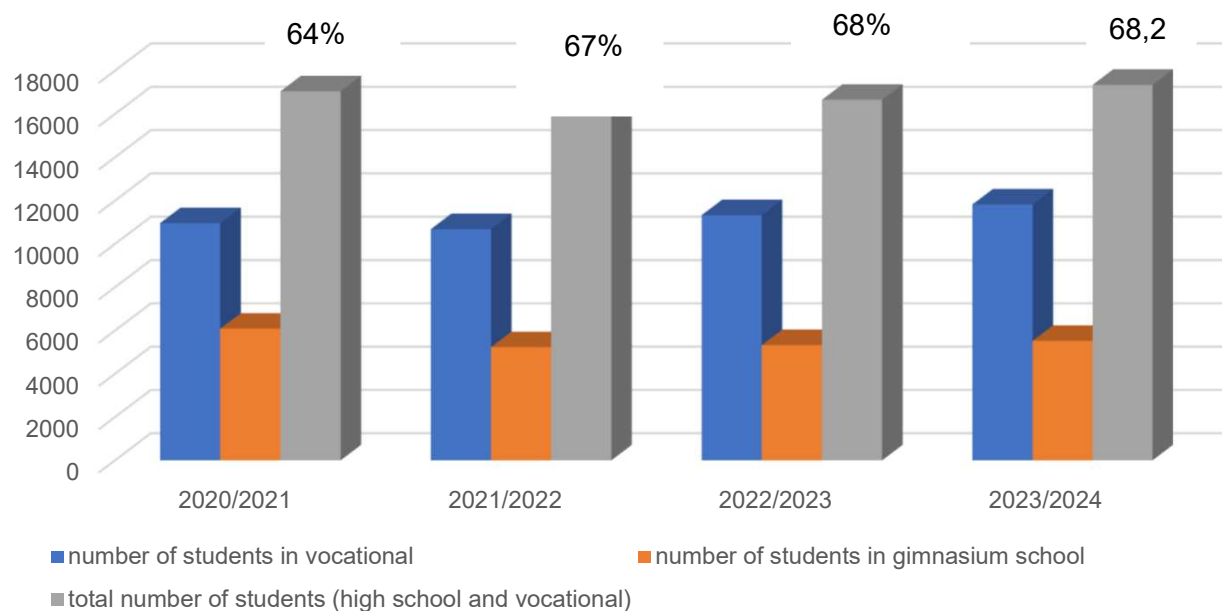
Working meetings were held with 7 municipalities out of 10 pilot municipalities, with the mayors, the responsible for education and the principals of primary schools within the framework of a Project for the optimization of the school network in order to improve the quality of primary education (a project in cooperation with the World Bank and UNICEF) - (Veles, Kumanovo, Gevgelija, Valandovo, Bitola, Berovo and Chair)





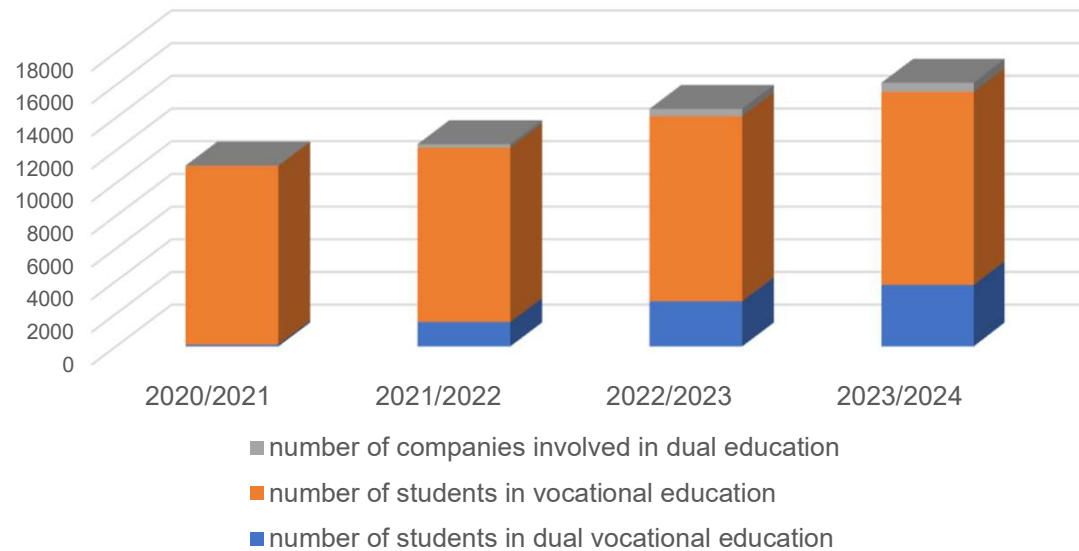
Secondary education

TOTAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE FIRST YEAR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION



School year	Number of students in VET	Number of students in Gymnasium schools	Total number of students (VET and gymnasium)
2020/2021	10961	6086	17047
2021/2022	10683	5233	15916
2022/2023	11328	5326	16654
2023/2024	11822	5521	17343

NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND NUMBER OF COMPANIES IN DUAL EDUCATION IN FIRS YEAR OF EDUCATION



School year	Number of students in dual education	Number of students in VET	Number of companies part of dual education
2020/2021	98	10961	16
2021/2022	1486	10683	210
2022/2023	2763	11328	450
2023/2024	3855	11822	560



Implementation of current projects, priorities of the sector for secondary education

- ✓ “20/20/20” Project in cooperation with EVN
- ✓ Dual vocational education Project in cooperation with the Delegation of German Industry and Commerce.
- ✓ Increasing Attractiveness, Inclusiveness and Relevance of VET and Adult Education Project (two new RCVET)
- ✓ Sector Reform Performance Contract “EU for Youth” Project (three RCVET)
- ✓ E4E and HELVETAS continuous cooperation for vocational education
- ✓ ETF continuous cooperation for vocational education
- ✓ UNDP continuous cooperation on inclusion
- ✓ Building capacity towards sustainable human capital development in North Macedonia – GIZ





Implementation of current projects, priorities of the sector for secondary education

- ✓ EU 4 Green Recovery: Support the implementation of the Green Agenda for the Western Balkans - OaED
- ✓ Guidelines for a just transition with 3 Working Groups (WG for requalification and training, WG for Economic Transition, WG on renewable energy and storing) - ME
- ✓ Active involvement in Guarantee for youth, second chance,...
- ✓ UNICEF continuous cooperation (a new formula for the distribution of Block Grants in secondary education)
- ✓ Support in activities that ensure safe development and prevention of violence in secondary schools





Next plans - priorities

- ✓ New Law on Secondary Education – **2024**
- ✓ New Law on Vocational Education and Training – **2024**
- ✓ New Law on Adult Education - **2024**
- ✓ New by-laws – **2024/2025**
- ✓ Increased gender equality in STEM – **2025**
- ✓ Career Counseling System – **2025**
- ✓ Inclusivity, green transition, digitization, microcredentials, validation, ...





Horizontal Themes in Education

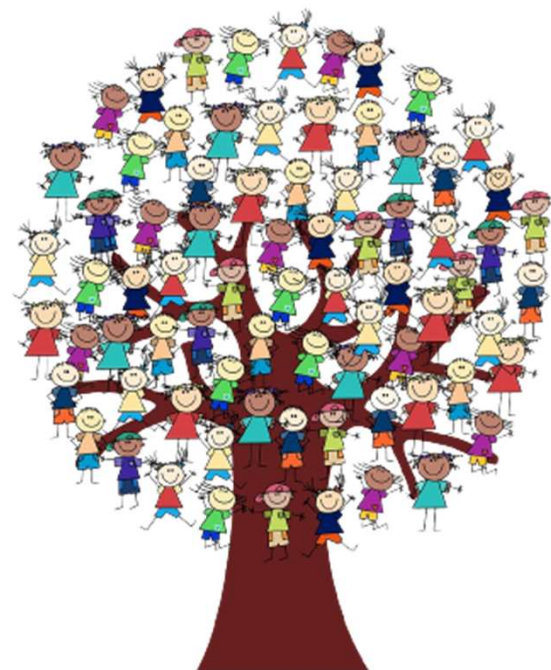
Inclusiveness, Mental Health and
Wellbeing



Inclusiveness

Special education:

- Transformation of special schools into primary schools with a resource center and special classes into centers to support the learning of students with disabilities (Bylaws on Inclusive Education);
- School inclusive teams (Medical model vs. Social model of disability – ICF);
- Types of support for students with disabilities in primary education;
- Ensuring accessibility in schools;
- Projects for Inclusive Education.





Inclusiveness

Diversity and Equity (Education of Roma)

Primary Education:

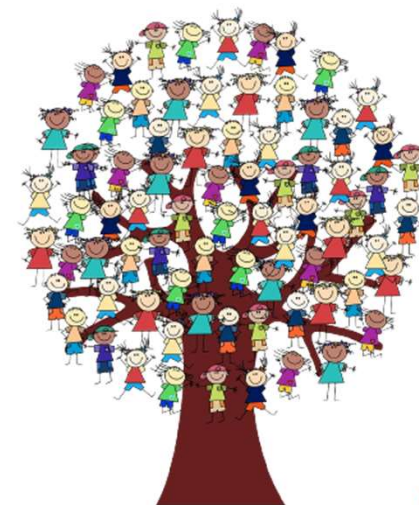
- Roma educational mediators (Article 37, Law on Primary Education);
- Rulebook on the method of enrolling children who are not included in education, and who are over the age limit;
- Projects to support primary education of Roma (IPA II - grant scheme).

Secondary Education:

- Scholarships for Roma students from public and private secondary schools in RNM (Article 54, Law on Student Standards);
- Measure for enrollment in secondary education for Roma students with 10% less points than the required minimum.

Tertiary Education:

- Scholarships for Roma students from public and private tertiary education institutions and universities in RNM (Article 49, Law on Student Standards).

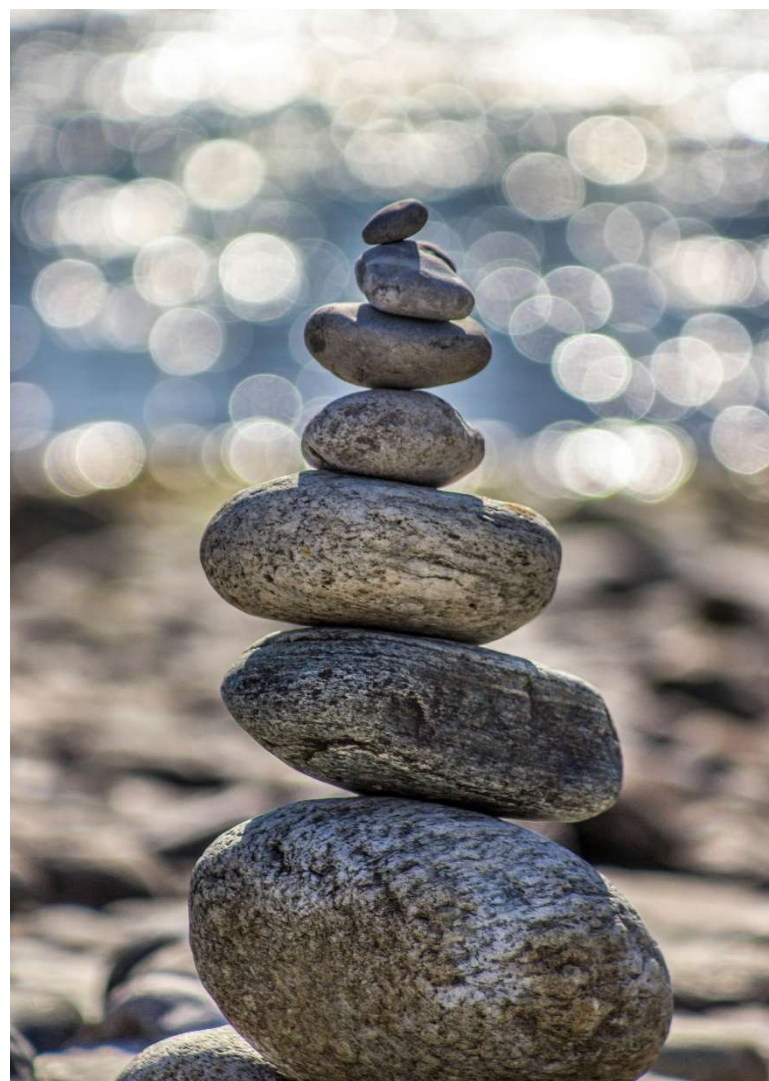




Inclusiveness

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Program for Psychosocial help and support to the improvement of well-being and mental health of children and young people in education, health and care institutions/environments;
- Emergency response program in May 2023;
- Promotion of the HBSC results for North Macedonia from the survey in 2022.





SEN:

- Budget increase;
- New Law on Secondary Education;
- National Strategy for Persons with Disabilities;

Future trends





Future trends

Roma:

- Roma educational mediators in secondary education (funds provided within the 2023 budget, New Law on Secondary Education);
- Implementation of measures from the National Action Plan for Education in accordance with the National Roma Strategy 2022-2030 (NAP for 5 years);
- Pedagogical assistants for Roma students in primary education;
- Amendment of Article 63 (regionalization) on the Law on Primary Education (established working group);
- Law on textbooks in primary and secondary education.





Future trends

Roma:

- Roma educational mediators in secondary education (funds provided within the 2023 budget, New Law on Secondary Education);
- Implementation of measures from the National Action Plan for Education in accordance with the National Roma Strategy 2022-2030 (NAP for 5 years);
- Pedagogical assistants for Roma students in primary education;
- Amendment of Article 63 (regionalization) on the Law on Primary Education (established working group);
- Law on textbooks in primary and secondary education.





Future trends

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

- Development of the National Action Plan for Mental Health and Wellbeing of students in primary and secondary schools 2023/2024;
- Implementation of the National Action Plan for Mental Health and Wellbeing of students in primary and Secondary schools 2024/2025;
- Developing and delivering a training course/module specifically designed for work with and for adolescents under the Program for Psychosocial help and support to the improvement of well-being and mental health of children and young people in education;
- Participation in the HBSC study in next cycle in 2026.





Higher Education



- The focus of the strategic documents related to higher education is the promotion of educational quality through a comprehensive and integrated approach. These documents serve as blueprints for institutional development, ensuring that higher education institutions remain dynamic, responsive, and dedicated to the continual improvement of educational outcomes for their stakeholders.
- In the pursuit of comprehensive preparedness and sustained alignment with European integration objectives, the Ministry of Education and Science, in collaboration with key entities such as the National Council for Higher Education and Scientific Research, the Agency for Quality in Higher Education with the Accreditation Board, and the Evaluation Board, has delineated a strategic set of mid-term priorities within the higher education sector:



MID TERM PRIORITIES:

- ✓ Revising the articles of the Law on Higher Education
- ✓ Decree on benchmark and criteria for financing higher education
- ✓ The National Program for Higher Education
- ✓ Application of the Rulebook on the standards and procedure for external evaluation and self-evaluation





Revising the articles of the Law on Higher Education

In 2018, a new Law on Higher Education was adopted, guaranteeing academic freedom of action and expression while securing rights and opportunities for educators, researchers, and students. In response to requests from the academic community, a process to revise and amend the law commenced, aiming to preserve the aforementioned rights and opportunities while facilitating a more streamlined implementation of the law itself. To this end, the Ministry of Education and Science formed a working group tasked with reviewing and synthesizing suggestions received from all relevant stakeholders engaged in the higher education process.





Decree on benchmark and criteria for financing higher education

The National Program for Higher Education

The National Program for Higher Education and the Regulation for Financing Higher Education, as outlined in the Law on Higher Education, fall under the purview of the National Council (NC), comprised of 15 university professors from various institutions and academic fields. The NC has initiated the process of developing these documents by organizing a professional debate that included key figures in the country's academic sphere and institutions involved in higher education. This initiative signals a commitment to a broad, inclusive, and transparent process, with a focus on the competence of the teaching staff, advancing teaching methods, curriculum evaluation, improving the quality of accredited study programs, enhancing the social position of academic staff, and placing a strong emphasis on students' needs, expectations, and support for talented students and academic youth.





Rulebook on the standards and procedure for external evaluation and self-evaluation

Before delving into the specifics of these documents, the NC has undertaken a study of European documents and good comparative practices. The objective is to ensure that the preparation of these documents is part of a comprehensive, inclusive, and transparent process, grounded in European standards and practices.

In pursuit of network rationalization, a Regulation on Standards and Procedures for External Evaluation and Self-Evaluation has been enacted. This regulation mandates not only self-evaluation by higher education institutions but also external evaluation by professional committees composed of members of the Evaluation Board, as well as domestic and foreign experts or professors from universities in EU member states associated with the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The goal of this process is to assess whether the internal quality assurance system of higher education institutions is established and effective in achieving its mission and overall development. The Ministry of Education and Science recognizes the role and significance of the evaluation process and is committed to improving the necessary resources to initiate and enhance the evaluation process.



DISCUSSION

