Purpose

The YES (Youth Employability Skills) Network will connect the supply and demand side of labor in Macedonia through various interventions to raise the quality of workers and connect them more readily to jobs. The project will build and extend the capacity of VET schools and employment services agencies to improve the work readiness of VET students and unemployed youth; and to provide services and respond to changing market needs by linking the institutions and instructors to the private sector.

Activities

Long-term joblessness is a prominent feature of the Macedonian labor market. Youth unemployment is at nearly 60% in an economy with low levels of aggregate demand and growth for labor. In the sectors where there has been growth, employers consistently complain that job applicants lack the necessary technical skills and require extensive on-the-job training. Weak links between skills supplied through the education system and those demanded by employers in the modern workforce mean that students and out-of-school, unemployed youth lack a system of guidance and preparation for the work of work.

To address these challenges YES will:

• Develop an improved demand-supply dialogue in local labor markets by linking employers with VET and Employment Services organizations and professionals.
• Improve the quality of labor market "supply" from the education and employment services systems.
• Build the capacity of public and private institutions to provide services to youth and respond to labor market needs through trainings and conferences.

Target Populations

• Vocational Education and Training (VET) students
• Registered unemployed and out-of-school unemployed youth, ages 16-24

Award Duration


EQUIP3 Consortium

Education Development Center, Inc. (Lead Agency) • Academy for Educational Development • Catholic Relief Services • International Council on National Youth Policy • International Youth Foundation • National Youth Employment Coalition • National Youth Leadership Council • Opportunities Industrialization Centers International • Partners of the Americas • Plan International Childreach • Sesame Workshop • Street Kids International • World Learning

Additional Partners: YouthBuild • EcoVentures International • Mercy Corps • Family Health International

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YES helps young people develop their employability skills to better prepare them for the workforce.
— Jan Karpowicz, Chief of Party
YES Network, Macedonia