



# **A JOURNEY OF YOUTH WORK: LESSONS LEARNED AND REALITIES SHARED IN NORTH MACEDONIA**

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## Historical developments of Youth work in RNM

- In 2012, the CID, with support of (NDI), has launched an initiative to recognize and professionalize youth work. As a result of this initiative, the Union for Youth Work was established and is still functioning today as the main non-public actor
- First Youth work fair was organized in 2013 to raise awareness of the need for professionalization and recognition of youth work, as well as to establish a link between youth work providers and institutions.
- As a result of various initiatives, understanding of youth work has increased significantly. In September 2018, for the first time in the history the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy adopted the standard of occupation in the field of youth work, under the name Worker with Youth.
- In June 2021, the Union for Youth Work and the Agency for Youth and Sports awarded certificates to 14 youth workers for a completed adult education program in accordance with the occupational standard Youth Worker. Thus, for the first time in our country, **certified professionals were recognized according to one of the profiles of the youth worker**, in accordance with the National Portfolio of Youth Workers. By December 2022, a total of 24 people have successfully completed the program and received Youth Worker certificates.

## **YOUTH WORK DEFINITION**

(according to Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policy)

- Organised and systemic process of education and support of the authentic development of the youth in order to achieve their full personal, social and societal potential, and their active involvement in the life of the community

## **YOUTH WORKER DEFINITION**

(according to Law on Youth Participation and Youth Policy)

- Skilled people who have the competencies to work with young people by implementing activities that support their personal and social development through non-formal and informal learning

The adoption of Law on youth policies and youth participation was an important step for the youth policy development in the country because, it established the necessary legal framework for opening local youth councils, municipal youth offices with corresponding “officers for youth”, and local youth centres, as essentials youth services

- G.1 ————— Youth work is formally, politically and socially recognized and recognized as a key approach to support the authentic development of young people
- G.2 ————— A functional system has been established to guarantee sustainable and quality youth work
- G.3 ————— Increased availability, attractiveness and awareness of youth work programs that respond to social trends and the current needs and challenges of young people, especially for young people with fewer opportunities.
- G.4 ————— The profession of youth worker is recognized, developed and promoted

## **YOUTH WORK IN NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY 2023-2027**

# PROGRESS IN YOUTH WORK: OUR NATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- Ministry of Labor and Social Policy adopted the **standard of occupation in the field of youth work**, under the name **Worker with Youth**.
- **Youth work, youth worker and youth services are defined through the LYPYP**
- **10 Youth Centers are open** and are full functional in RNM since 2020
- **Certified professionals** were recognized according to one of the profiles of the youth worker, in accordance with the **National Portfolio of Youth Workers**
- **Rulebook - Portfolio of Youth Workers was adopted**
- **Rulebook for quality standards of youth centres was adopted**
- **A base of evaluators for youth centre quality standards has been established**
- From this academic year for the first time **master's studies** for youth work are being opened. Program is implemented at the Faculty of Philosophy at the University "St. Cyril and Methodius" and students will be able to acquire the title of **Master in Youth Work**

# YOUTH WORK: CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

**Fully recognition of youth work**

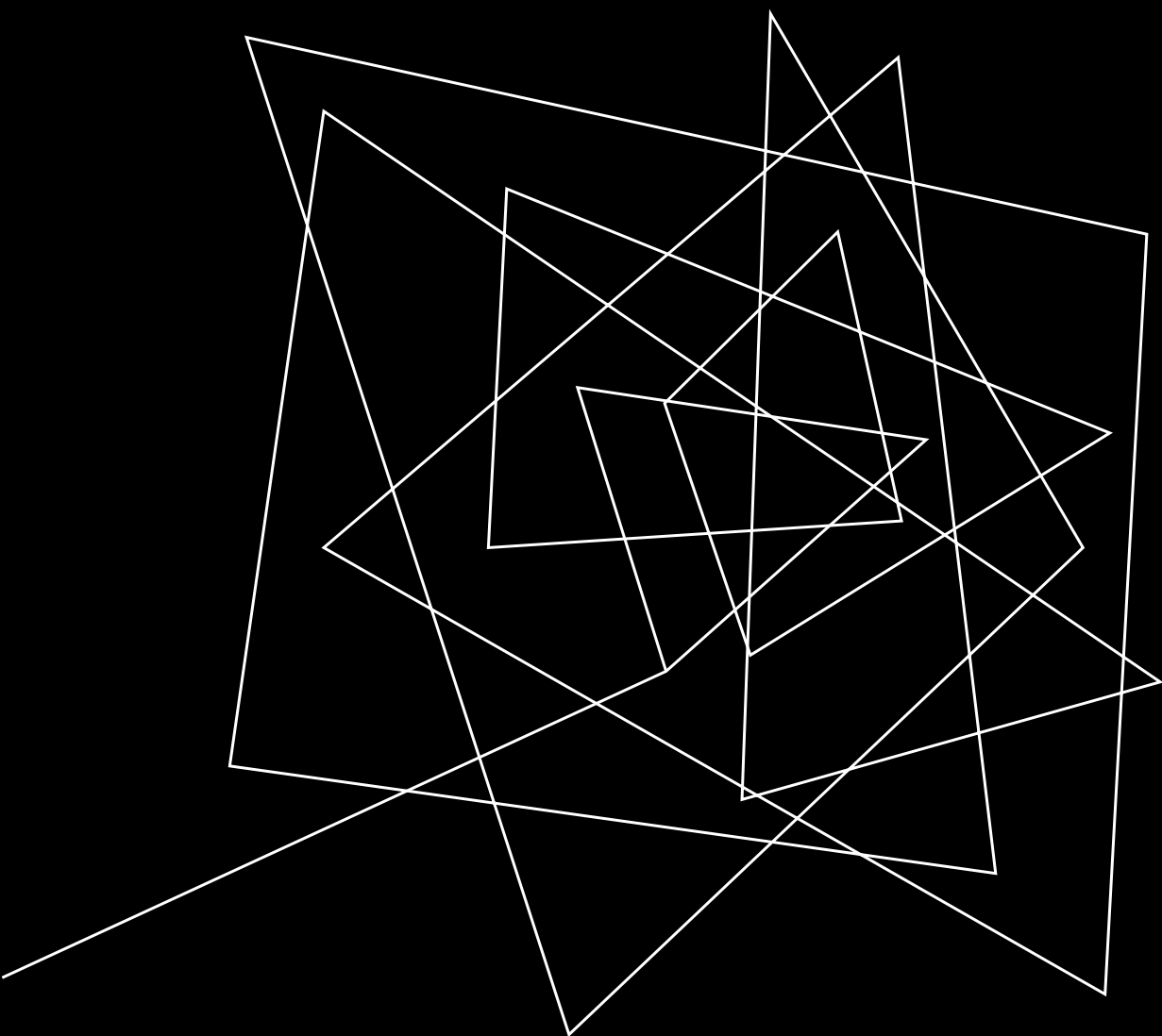
**Strengthening the youth infrastructure and create more youth spaces and opportunities**

**Professionalization of youth work**

**Standardization of youth work**

**Law on youth work**

**Develop and expand the youth work offer**



- Youth work in RNM represents an organized and systematic process of education and support of the authentic development of young people in order to realize their overall personal, social and societal potential and their active involvement in the life of the community.
- Youth work plays a central role in providing young people with opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes they need to be active citizens in society.
- Despite the fact that youth work has gained increased recognition in the past few years, most of the institutions, young people and other stakeholders in society are still not sufficiently familiar with the meaning, importance and opportunities offered by youth work, and youth work is not fully established as a profession.



# YOUTH WORK IN YOUTH COUNTRY?





# THANK YOU!

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