



**ACTIVE  
YOUTHS**  
ASSOCIATION  
OF ACTIVE YOUTHS OF FLORINA



**EUROPE DIRECT  
WESTERN MACEDONIA**

Session:

## Growing Youth Work in Just Transition Regions

Dr. Kostas Filippidis,

President of the Association of Active Youths of Florina

Seminar 'Growing youth work in Eastern and Southeast Europe: knowledge, realities and ideas for the future'

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA 29-30 NOVEMBER 2023

### Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission  
and the Council of Europe in the field of Youth



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE



**Educational  
Center for  
Renewable  
Energy Sources**

1st Youth Conference "Forum"  
of Western Macedonia  
"Youths in EU Regions –  
Post-coal Era and  
Development - Dialogue,  
Innovation and Actions"

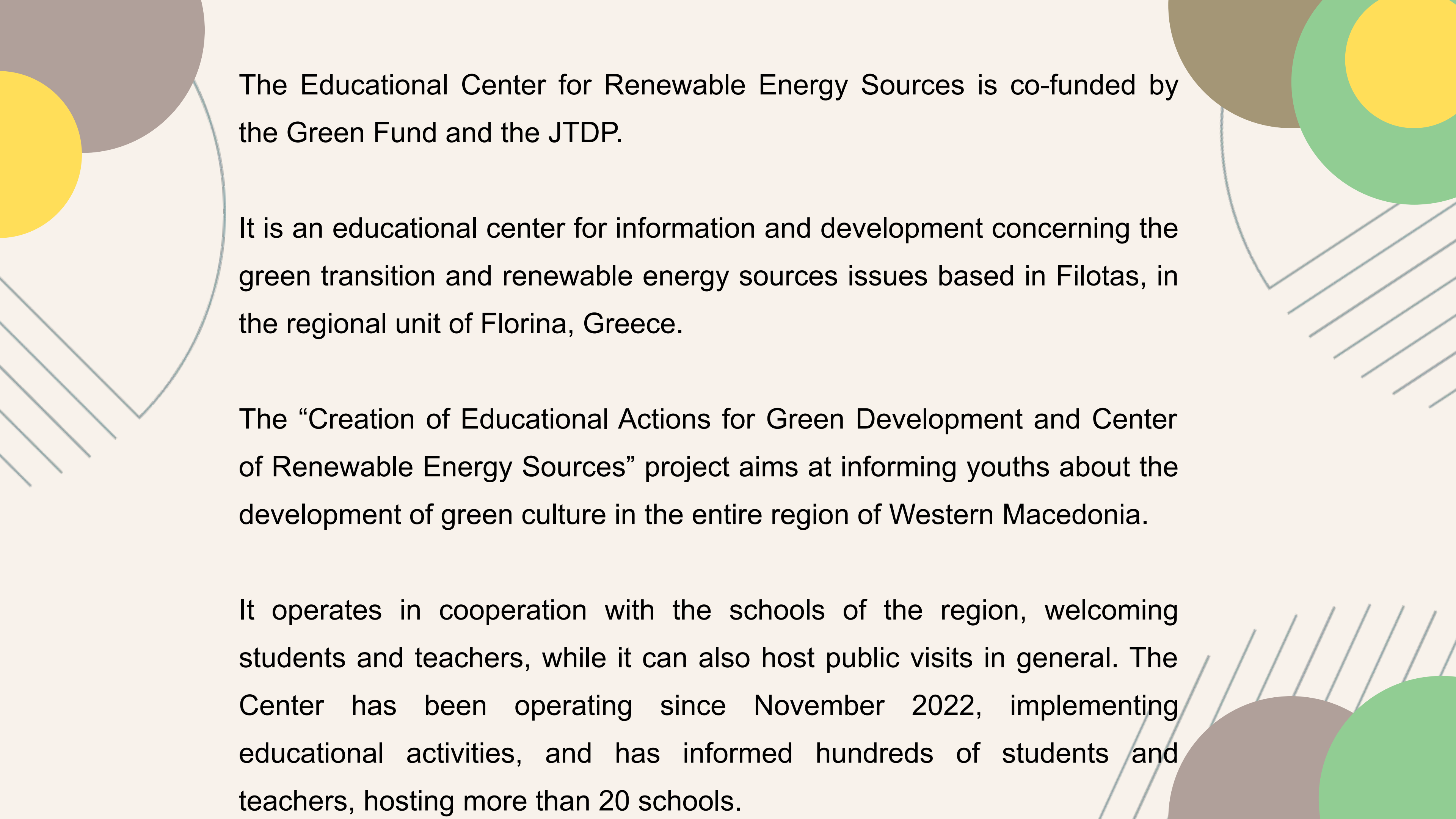
Empowering the  
Next Generation:  
Youth Engagement  
in European  
Elections  
(YEEEs24)

**Education and  
Innovation Youth  
Center**

**Living Library Sessions  
"Just Transition as an  
open book"**

# Educational Center for Renewable Energy Sources





The Educational Center for Renewable Energy Sources is co-funded by the Green Fund and the JTDP.

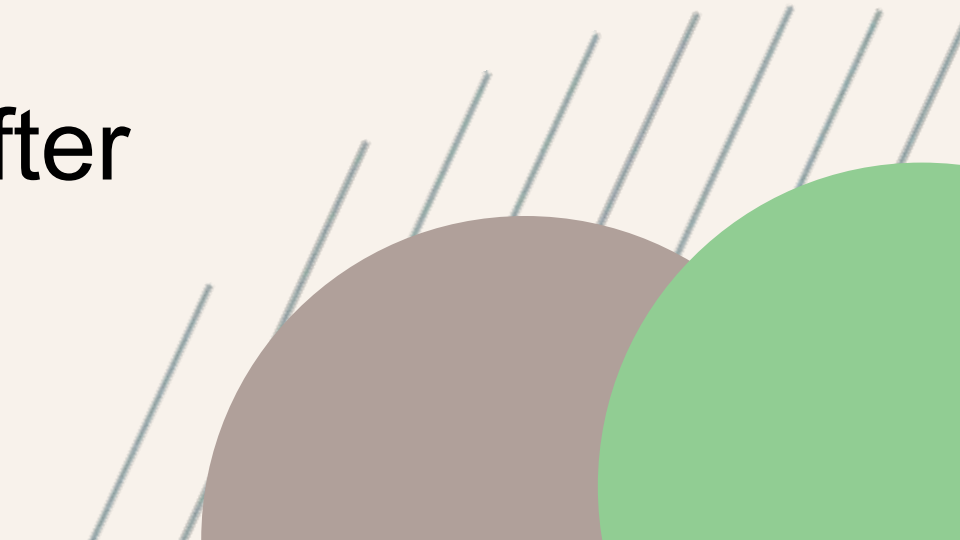
It is an educational center for information and development concerning the green transition and renewable energy sources issues based in Filotas, in the regional unit of Florina, Greece.

The “Creation of Educational Actions for Green Development and Center of Renewable Energy Sources” project aims at informing youths about the development of green culture in the entire region of Western Macedonia.

It operates in cooperation with the schools of the region, welcoming students and teachers, while it can also host public visits in general. The Center has been operating since November 2022, implementing educational activities, and has informed hundreds of students and teachers, hosting more than 20 schools.



The goals of the project are:

- Develop a green culture;
  - Inform about renewable energy sources ;
  - Educate youth about green and just transition;
  - Organize raising awareness activities - campaigns;
  - Create and promote new job opportunities;
  - Create new opportunities and incentives after decarbonisation;
  - Contribute on the upgrade of the area.
- 

# INDICATIVELY, THE MODELS OF THE EDUCATIONAL CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES ARE:

- HAWT - Horizontal-Axis Wind Turbines
- Inverters
- Solar panels
- Lithium-ion battery
- Power solar rover
- Hydrogen-powered car (H-Racer 2.0)
- Educational Solar Robot Kit
- Residential Wind turbine
- Hydroelectric power plants simulator model
- Simulator of Hydrogen powered Generator



# 1st Youth Conference "Forum" of Western Macedonia "Youths in EU Regions – Post-coal Era and Development - Dialogue, Innovation and Actions"



## Issues that were addressed:

- Loss of jobs (more than 12,000) or a change in the main professional activity;
- Difficulty in immediate rehabilitation/absorption of the workforce (due to age profile) and in dealing with the "brain drain" phenomena;
- The relocation of the residents of regions that are adjacent to mines and lands with lignite deposits and extensive deposits (Akrini, Anargyroi, Achlada and Valtonera);
- Lack of technical knowledge for the development and utilization of new technologies and energy production techniques;



- Increased cost of living, as areas that had access to district heating are affected, by rising heating costs, but possibly also medium-term increases in energy costs in general, as well as increased electricity production costs and loss of a percentage of the region's NRSE;
- Uncertainty about the restoration of the affected soils and the environmental footprint of the construction of new means of energy production.



# What really happened



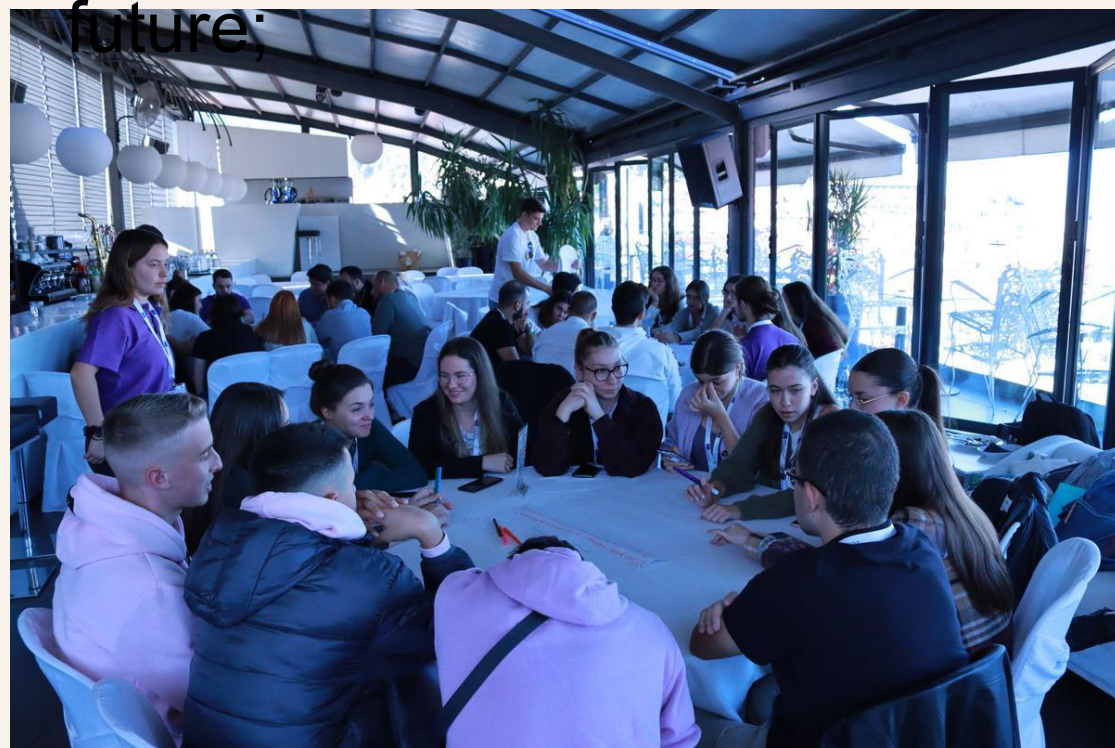
- Inclusion of young people and their importance in participating in Greek and EU policies;
- Proposed forms of inclusion and participation of youth in the process of implementing a just transition;
- Upright prompt, timely and valid information about just transition;

- Active participation;
- The priorities that the Region of Western Macedonia should have in the future;
- The factors that are capable of making young people stay (Employment and Entrepreneurship, Education - Research and Innovation, Environmental Factors, Economic Factors, Social factors)



# Results

- Highlight and strengthen youth participation at the level of policy making and decision-making, but also in every aspect of their participation in the social, economic, cultural and political reality;
- Young people to mastered new tools and discussed their



- The dynamic intervention of the young people of Western Macedonia is reflected in the fact that the Association of Active Youths of Florina is a Member of the Monitoring Committee of the Just Development Transition Program (2021-2027), as it emerges in article 1 of no. 84408 decision of the Alternate Minister of Development and Investments (Government Gazette 4757/ τ. B'/09.09.2022) with voting rights.

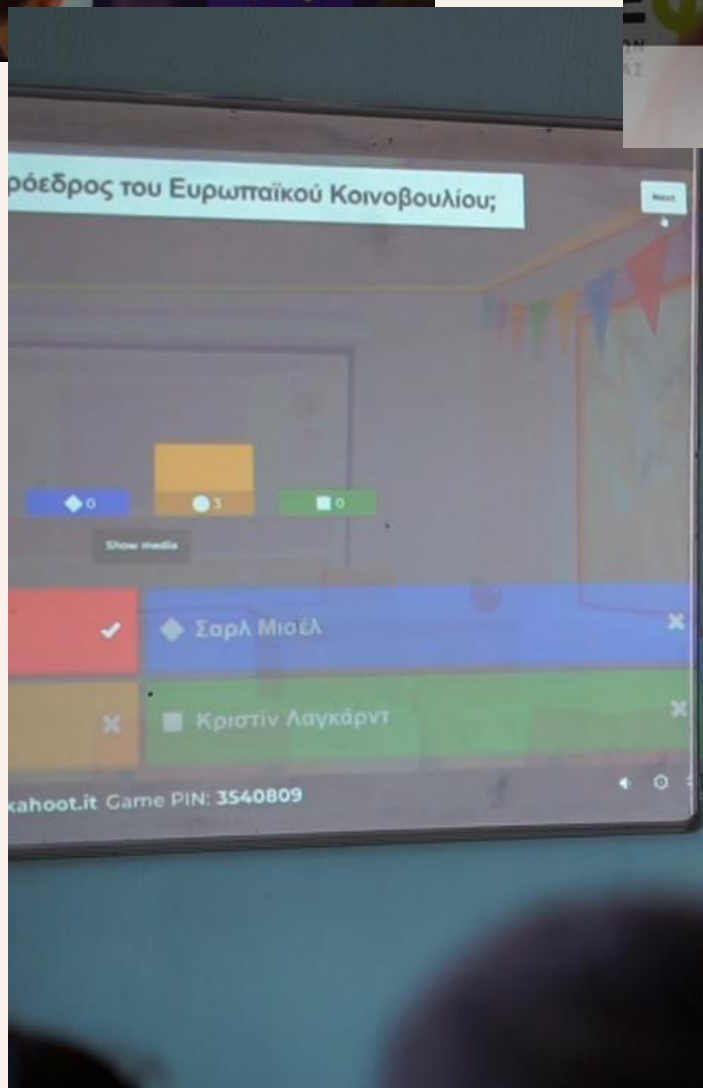
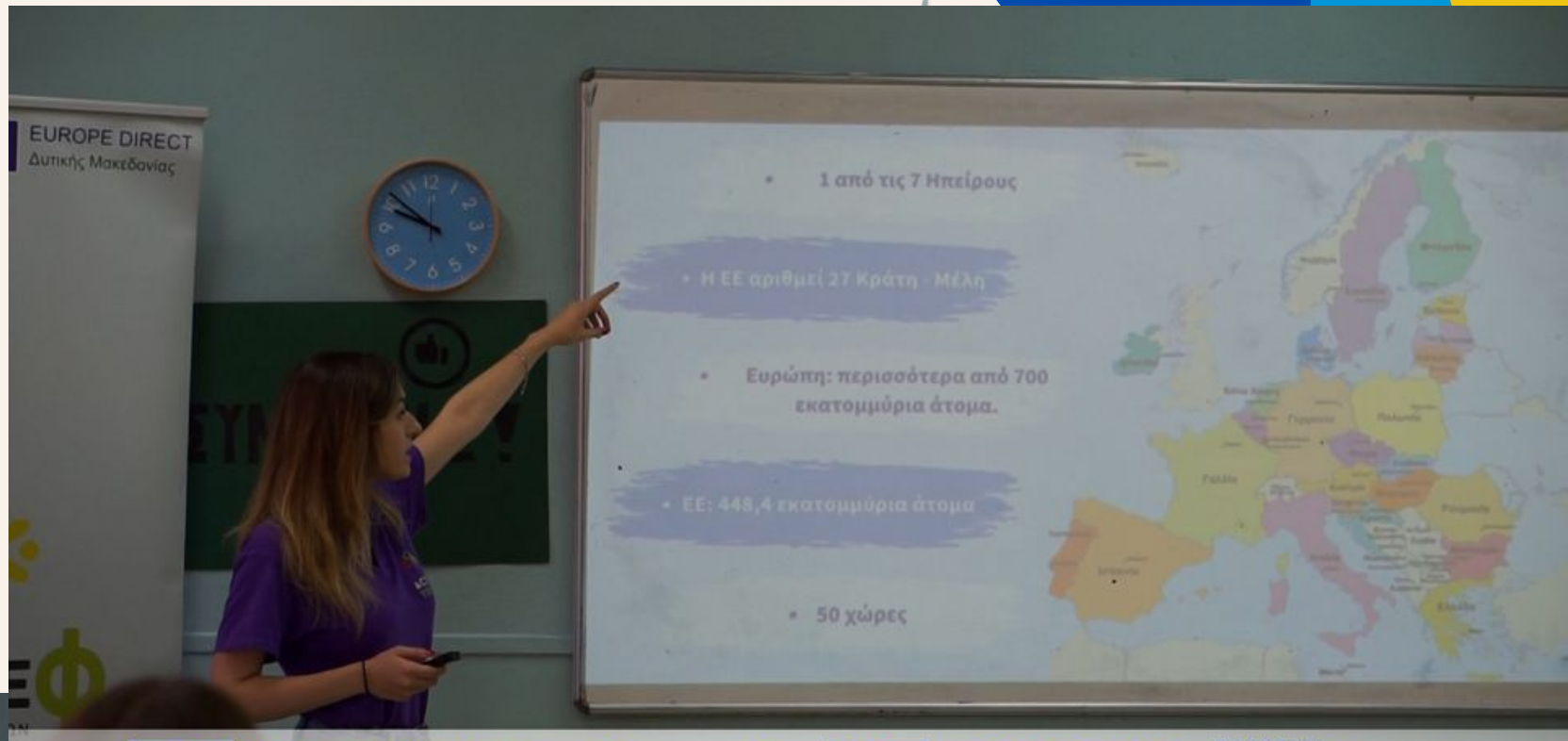
# Empowering the Next Generation: Youth Engagement in European Elections (YEEEs24)



The project “Empowering the Next Generation: Youth Engagement in European Elections” (YEEEs24) is a unique opportunity to build an informed and engaged European electorate, and increase democratic participation in WM, one of the most eurosceptic regions in the EU.

The project will be achieved through online & offline activities, for a period of 9 months (10/23-06/24).







## Main objectives:

- To foster European identity and democratic engagement;
- To provide information;
- To reach out to young people and first-time voters (17-24) of WM.
- To increase awareness about the role and democratic values of the EU and the importance of participating in the EE24;
- To strengthen the initiative together.eu and to maintain an ongoing dialogue between the EP and the EU citizens of WM.

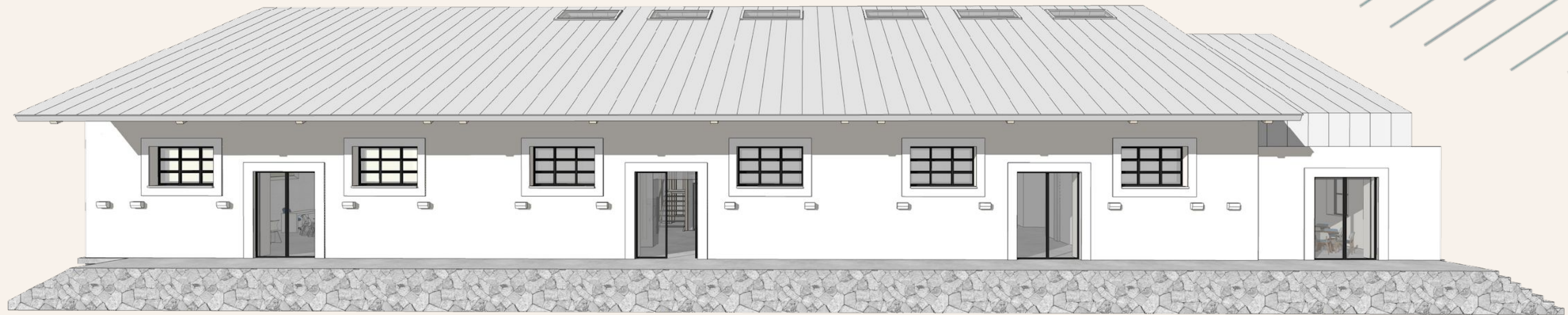
Offline Activities: In each of the 4 Regional Units of WM, OENEF will organise visits to educational entities (High Schools & University Departments) offering interactive non formal education and information activities to young people and 1st time voters focusing on the EE24.

Online activities:

- a) Social media campaign (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok)
- b) Podcast production
- c) Radiotalk shows: publicity activities by participating in informational television broadcasts in regional television stations as well as radio broadcasts.

Goal & target group: To reach at least 2500 young people (17-24) of WM through of events/visits and more than 3000 young people (16-30) through the online activities

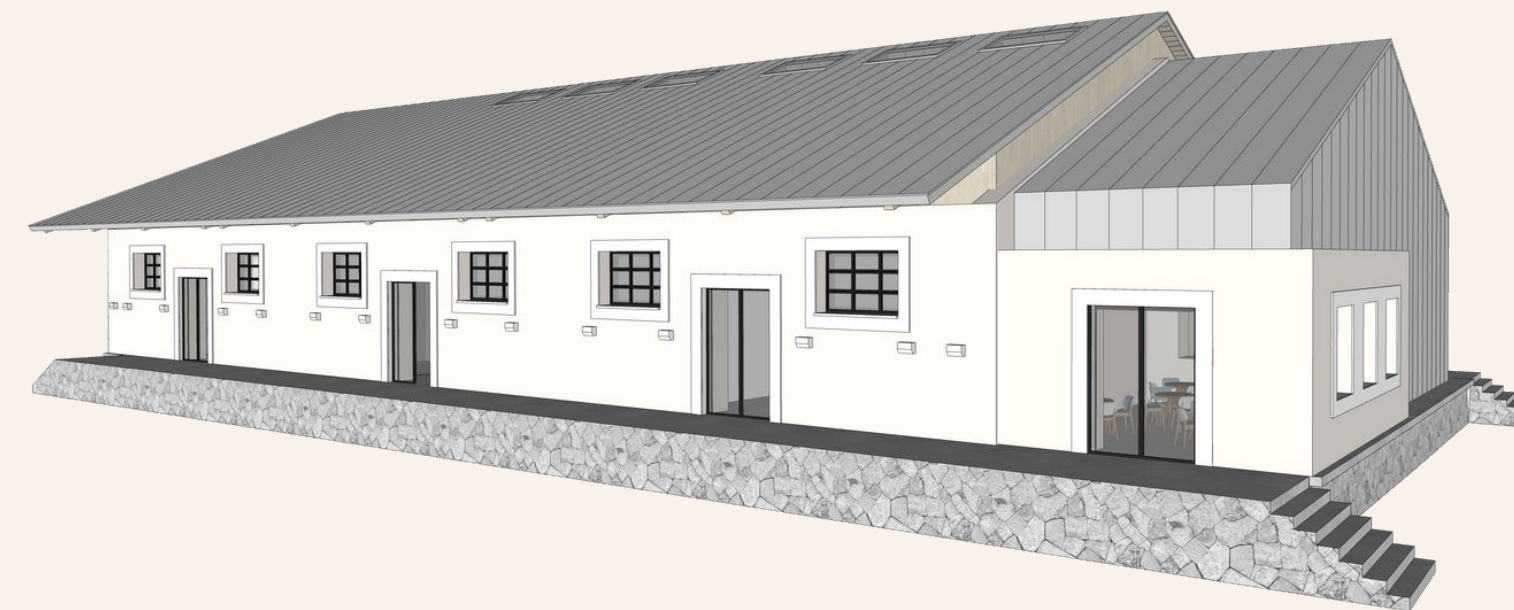
# Education and Innovation Youth Center





# Goals of the Center:

- Provide educational services
- Support vulnerable groups and address social exclusion and marginalization
- Support unemployed youths and re-/integrate them in labor market
- Organize conferences, seminars, workshops and events
- Promote local culture and products and strengthen local economy
- Provide space for start-ups/spin-offs
- Train and enhance ICT skills for young people
- Combat Brain-drain and promote Brain Gain
- Upgrade the city of Florina and re-introduce it in Europe



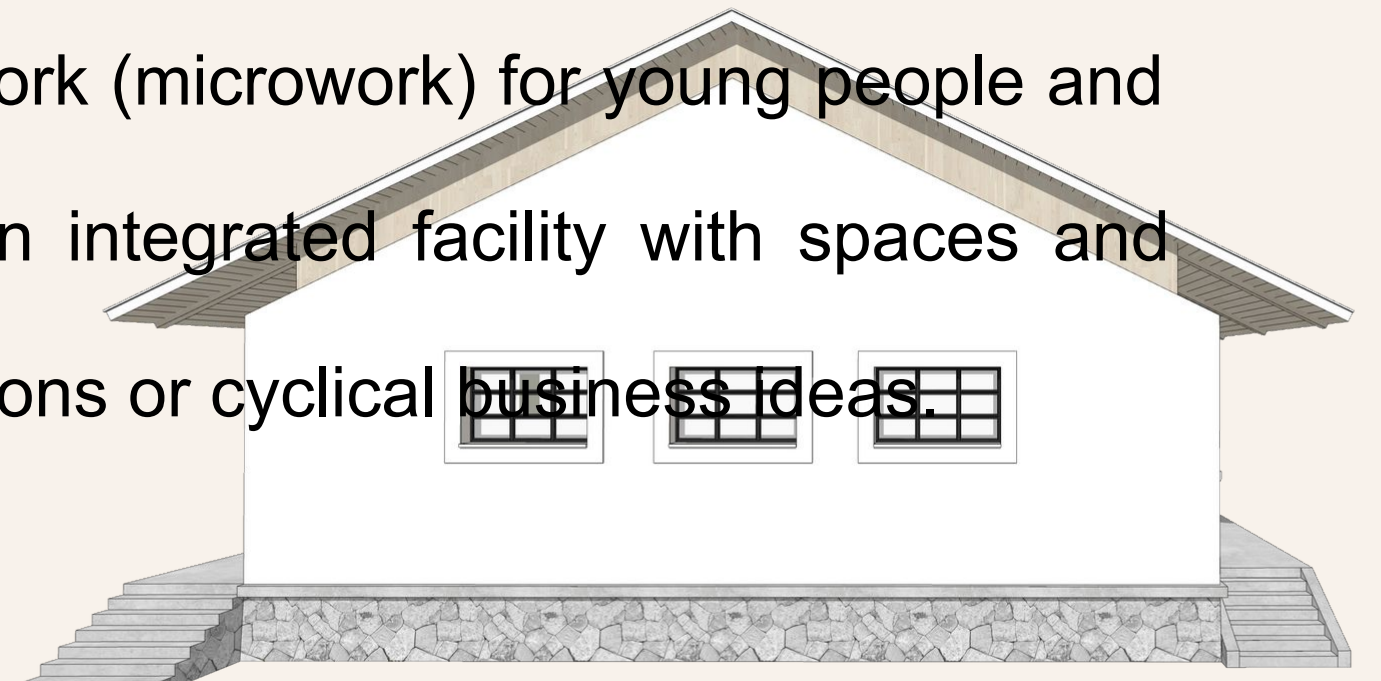
# Youth Innovation Hub

## YIH ACCELERATOR

A project that aims to create a space for innovation and support of youth entrepreneurs (Incubator /Accelerator) and that will provide training and mentoring aspiring youths, having as a goal to establish successful businesses, create job opportunities and strengthen economic growth in Western Macedonia.

## YIH SOURCE

A key service that offers training on ICT skills, integrates digital work (microwork) for young people and provides opportunities to combat unemployment. We provide an integrated facility with spaces and infrastructure for all ideas, whether they are technological innovations or cyclical business ideas.

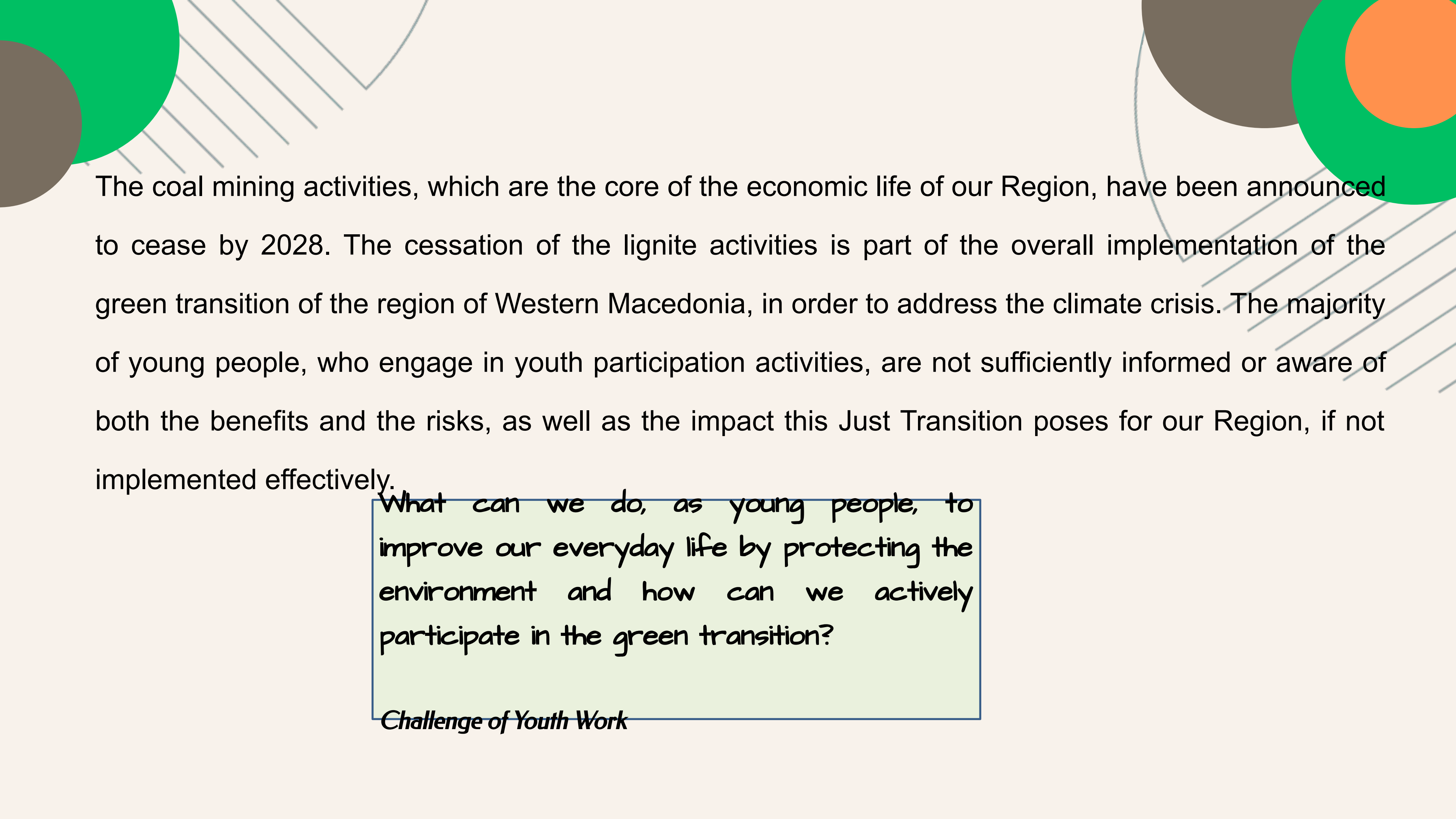




# Living Library Sessions “Just Transition as an open book”



**Living Library**  
**Sessions**



The coal mining activities, which are the core of the economic life of our Region, have been announced to cease by 2028. The cessation of the lignite activities is part of the overall implementation of the green transition of the region of Western Macedonia, in order to address the climate crisis. The majority of young people, who engage in youth participation activities, are not sufficiently informed or aware of both the benefits and the risks, as well as the impact this Just Transition poses for our Region, if not implemented effectively.

What can we do, as young people, to improve our everyday life by protecting the environment and how can we actively participate in the green transition?

*Challenge of Youth Work*

## The main points of the Conference were:

- How do the inhabitants deal with the cessation of coal mining?
- How does this decision affect the social and economic sphere of WM?
- Are there any good practices to adopt and exchange?



- How can young people work towards this goal?
- How are the available funds going to be used and absorbed by the local community and its people's activities?
- Are there any job opportunities for young people?

## Methodology of the Sessions

The main structure of our activities summarized in a series of 5 interactive Living Library Sessions-Talks & Discussions:

- “Wrap up session”. In this session, experts are going to provide the participants with a comprehensive and multifaceted update on the Just Transition process
- “Living in Transition - mines and lignite.” In this chapter, people from any social or professional background related to lignite activities are going to share their story.
- Why “Green Transition?” In this session, the speakers, who will be people from the local, national or european political sphere, will present their points of view concerning green transition, and its institutional aspects, in order to highlight green transition’s scope and importance
- Green Transition - The key to thrive: Job Opportunities - Ideas, Skills and Future Plans.” In this session, there will be an open space for the affiliated stakeholders of Just Transition to provide the participants with knowledge and/or any information about opportunities related to their personal and professional development
- Youth Engagement and Youth Policies towards Youth Participation in "Regions in Transition".

## Discussion

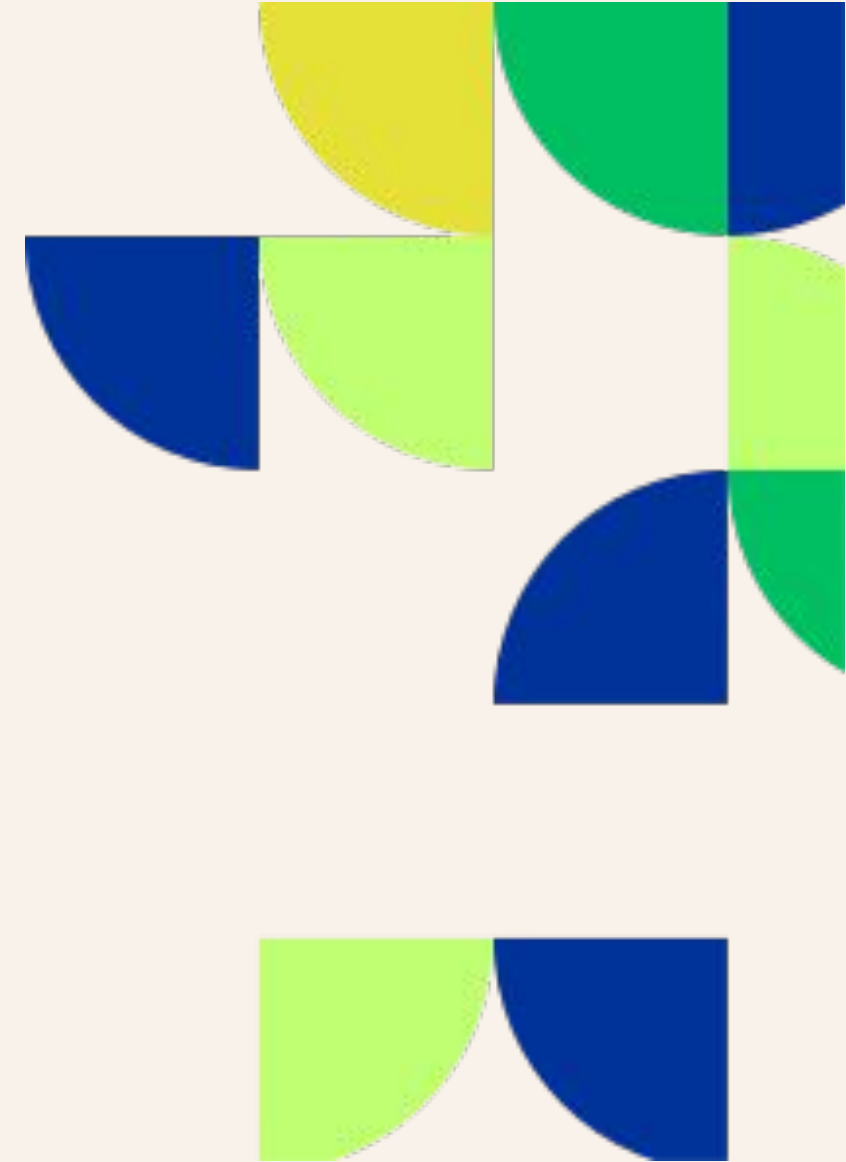
### Group 1

- Challenges of Green Transition
- Youth Participation and Youth Work

### Group 2

- Brain Drain and Youth Work
- Are there any good practices to adopt and exchange regarding opportunities?
- The role of Youth Work





THANK YOU

SCAN ME

Active Youths



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