











National Youth Work Program for Youth Mental Health & Non-Violence



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Youth Work program for Youth mental health and non-violence

A comprehensive, standardized, preventive program, designed for replication in different local environments and adaptable to local needs.

Target group: youth 15 to 19

The national program, accompanied by indicators for monitoring success, includes:

- A curriculum for training of youth workers
- A curriculum for training of peer educators
- A peer education workshop plan

Program Development Process

December 2023: Consortium hired through open call

February 2024: 75+ stakeholders provided feedback, refining program

March 2024: 20 psychologists trained (avg. score 4.05/5)

April 2024: 5-day training for 10 youth workers (avg. score 4.6/5)

March-April: Consultation with 26 youth leaders and youth workers - mentorship platform created

Program Piloting (August – December 2024)







Full-time youth worker engagement ensured program consistency in five LSGs: Zrenjanin, Sombor, Kruševac, Zaječar, and Novi Pazar







Program Piloting (August – December 2024)

Peer Education:

- 120 peer educators completed a three-day training done by youth workers. Interest exceeded expectations, with 195 applicants.
- Peer educators received ongoing support and coordination from youth workers through additional activities, 155 individual supervision sessions, 134 peer educator supervision meetings, and 42 group supervisions.

Peer Education Workshops:

- Between late September and late December, 7,797 young people (3,742 girls, 4,055 boys) attended workshops in 39 high schools.
- Participants rated the workshops 4.22 out of 5, a high score considering this was the peer educators' first experience conducting such activities.

Outreach Youth Work:

- 173 young people (aged 15-19) outside the formal education system were reached, including 35 youth with intellectual disabilities, who received various forms of support.
- Participants rated the support 4.46 out of 5.
- Activities involved collaboration with institutions and organizations, outreach at youth events, and one-on-one engagement to support skill development, social integration, and independence.

Trainings of Peer Educators









Program Piloting (August – December 2024)

Program Management & Local Implementation:

- Full-time youth worker engagement ensured program consistency in five LSGs
- Collaboration with 33 local institutions through 86 meetings established a coordinated response and improved mental health support services, including cooperation with CSOs and local Mental Health Teams (involving health sector representatives, social work centers, youth offices, and scout groups).
- Youth offices played a key role in program sustainability in Novi Pazar, Zaječar, and Kruševac, with a total of 60 meetings held across all five LSGs.
- Collaboration with high schools was initiated through a Ministry of Education notice, encouraging participation in peer educator training. In total, partnerships were formed with 39 high schools, and 416 peer education workshops were held between September and December 2024.
- The program reached an estimated 20,000 indirect beneficiaries, including 16,000 youth, via social media, public events, peer education, fieldwork, and media outreach.

Program Piloting (August – December 2024)

Additional support to Youth Workers:

Support for youth workers was ensured through regular meetings (2 in-person, 7 online), group supervision (5 external sessions, rated 4.0 on average), and individual sessions (monthly for each engaged youth worker).



Program Piloting (August – December 2024)

Supervision & Mentorship Platform:

- 35 youth workers registered on the platform between October 2024 and December 2025.
- 60 individual and group meetings were conducted on the platform, enhancing the quality and scale of support for youth workers in the field.