

Albania Civil Society Week 2023

#SKILLSFORALL
TO LEARN, WORK, AND ENGAGE





Funded by the European
Union

Civil
Society
Week
Albania
2023



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National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania is implemented in partnership with Albanian Centre for Population and Development and European Movement in Albania





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For the second year in a row, Partners Albania and the National Resource Centre for Civil Society in Albania in partnership with civil society actors throughout the country, organized Civil Society Week 2023, a series of events and thematic promotion space, dedicated to the work and activity of organisations and civil society activists in the country.

The week creates opportunities for all actors of civil society to come together, as engines of positive changes in society, to discuss and create solutions and joint actions in the future.

In line with the European Week and the announcement by the European Commission of 2023 as the "European Year of Skills", Civil Society Week this year was dedicated to the activity and contribution of civil society organisations to the education and training of different groups in society, mainly youth and the most needy groups under the motto **"Skills for all: To learn, work, engage"**.

As part of the Week, over 120 activities were organized throughout the country, with the participation of civil society organisations and activists, local and central government institutions professional schools, academic institutions, businesses, media, etc.

Civil Society Week 2023

This document is a summary of the activities organized within CSW 2023, the actors involved as well as the discussions and recommendations generated during the thematic workshops of the national event.



RECAP

Civil Society Week 2023



Participants

2500



Local Activities

120



National Event

1



NPOs engaged

75



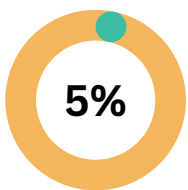
Schools & Universities engaged

50

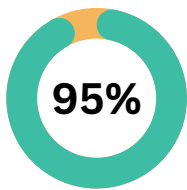


Public Institutions engaged

25



Newly established NPOs engaged



Established NPOs engaged



70

Posts



150

New followers



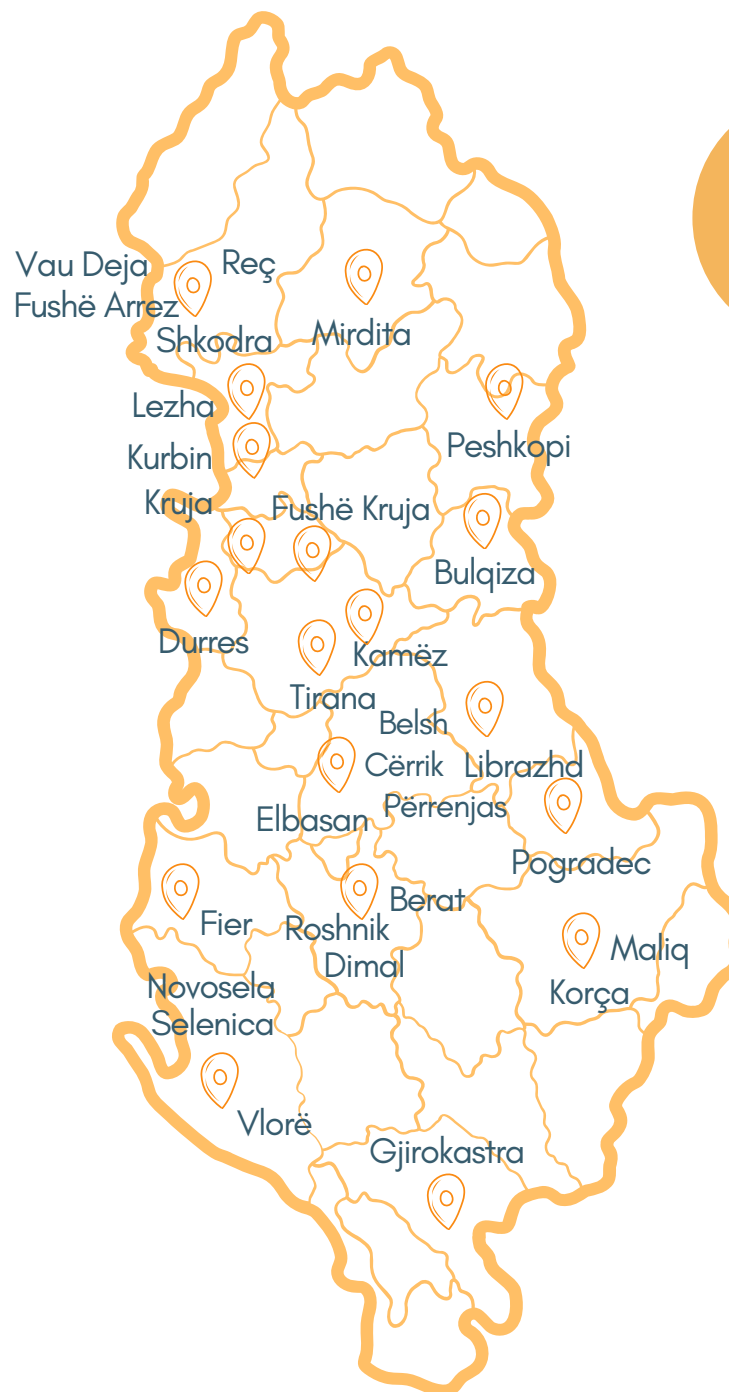
17K

Facebook Reach



5430

Instagram Engagement



Cities & Administrative Units

30

120 Local Activities

Organized and promoted events

Life skills



Media and Information literacy skills



Digital and green skills



Employment and self-employment skill



Engagement in policymaking skills



Knowledge transfer skills



75 NPOs Engaged

1. Act for Society
2. Albanian Center for Population and Development (ACPD)
3. Albanian Disability Rights Foundation
4. Albanian Red Cross
5. Albanian Skills
6. AlbContact
7. Antigonea
8. AOS-Albanian Ornithological Society
9. Association for the Protection of Rights of Persons with Disabilities (MEDPAK)
10. Atelie Youth Centre
11. Aulona Centre
12. Beyond Barriers
13. Celim Albania
14. Centre for Gender Justice in Albania
15. Centre for Social Advocacy
16. Change and Development Centre
17. Conservation Youth Club (CYC)
18. Counseling Line for Women and Girls
19. Diakonia Agapes
20. Different and Equal
21. Duresi Active
22. Eco Albania
23. Elbasan Women's Forum
24. Emanuel Mission Foundation
25. Engim
26. Gender Alliance for Development Centre
27. Go2
28. IMPACT Club
29. Initiative for Social Change (ARSIS)
30. Innovative Centre EDU ACT ALBANIA
31. Institute of Roma Culture in Albania (IRCA)
32. Joscelyn Foundation
33. Junior Achievement Albania (JAA)
34. KS Factor
35. Light Steps Centre
36. Mbrojtja e të Drejtave të Gruas Qytetare e Fshatare Centre
37. Multifunctional for Culture, Education and Development Association
38. MuZEH Lab
39. National Association Education for Life
40. National Youth Congress
41. Nature and Tourism Association of Bulqiza
42. New Acropolis
43. New Bridge
44. New Vision
45. North Italian Association
46. Oda Foundation
47. Open Window
48. Partners Albania for Change and Development
49. Pashko Liberal Institute
50. Psycho-Social Centre Vatra
51. Regional Development Agency
52. Roots Association
53. Science and Innovation for Development Centre (SciDEV)
54. Selenice Civil Forum
55. Social Centre for Helping People in Need
56. Social Inclusion for Development (SID)
57. SOS Village
58. Streha Centre
59. Terre des Hommes
60. The Institute for Development and Civic Initiatives (CIPI)
61. TID Gjirokastra
62. Trokitja Centre
63. TVO NGO
64. Union of Journalists Albania
65. Vau Dejes Artisans
66. Voice of Roma in Albania
67. Wikipedias of the Albanian language
68. Woman to Woman
69. Women Farmer Tregan Association
70. World Vision Albania
71. YMCA Albania
72. Young Professionals for Agricultural Development Albania (YPARD)
73. Young Professionals Network (YPN)
74. Youth Rights and Citizenship Initiative (YRCI)
75. Youth Voice Network of organisations

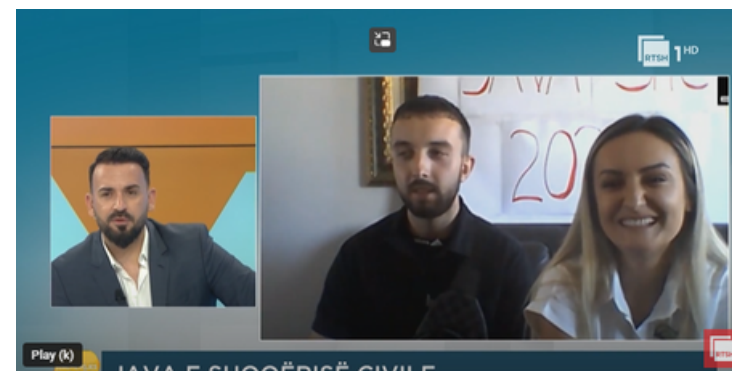
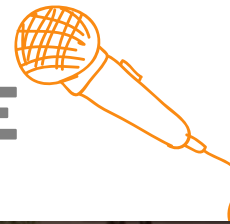
50 Schools & Universities engaged

1. Professional College of Tirana (KPT)
2. "1 Maji" School
3. "14 Engjëjt" School
4. "28 Nëntori" School
5. "Arben Broci" School
6. "Dertliu" School
7. "Epoka e Re" School
8. "Fiqiri Dine" School
9. "Gjergj Pekmezi" School
10. "Gjergj Vatë Martini" School
11. "Gjok Shqiptari" School
12. "Hamdi Bushati" School
13. "Isuf Gjata" School
14. "Jordan Misja" School
15. "Koli Gusho" School
16. "Kolin Gjoka" School
17. "Kristaq Capo" School
18. "Kushtrimi i Lirisë" School
19. "Liri Gero" School
20. "Maria Ndihmëtare" School
21. "Marie Kaçulini" School
22. "Muharrem Collaku" School
23. "Nënë Tereza" School
24. "Oso Kuka" School
25. "Partizani" School
26. "Pjetër Meshkalla" School
27. "Planetary" School
28. "Rilindja" School
29. "Sali Gjuka" School
30. "Sevasti Qirazi" School
31. "Sheme Mahmutllari" School
32. "Skënderbej" School
33. "Besnik Sykja" School
34. "Ferem Clirim" School
35. "Gjergj Kastriot Skënderbeu" School
36. "Rakip Kryeziu" School
38. "Shejnaze Juka" School
39. "Ptoleme Xhuvani" High School
40. "Petro Sota" Professional High School
41. Shupenzë School
42. SHMB Roshnik
43. "Aleksandër Moisiu" University
44. "Aleksandër Xhuvani" University
45. "Fan Noli" University
46. "Ismail Qemali" University
47. "Luigj Gurakuqi" University
48. The European University of Tirana
49. Tirana University
50. The Mediterranean University of Albania

25 Institutions

1. National Agency for Protected Areas
2. National Agency for Employment and Skills
3. Municipality of Belsh
4. Municipality of Berat
5. Municipality of Elbasan
6. Municipality of Gjirokastrë
7. Municipality of Kamëz
8. Municipality of Korçë
9. Municipality of Kurbin
10. Municipality of Lezhë
11. Municipality of Maliq
12. Municipality of Mirditë
13. Municipality of Përrenjas
4. Municipality of Pogradec
15. Municipality of Tiranë
16. Municipality of Vlorë
17. Regional Employment and Skills Agency, Elbasan
18. Regional Employment and Skills Agency, Korça
19. Regional Directorate of Public Vocational Training
20. Ministry of Education and Sports
21. Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs
22. Regional Employment Office of Librazhd
23. Regional Employment Office of Tirana
24. Local Educational Office of Lezha
25. Local Educational Office of Shkodra

PROMOTION AND MEDIA COVERAGE



 [Promotional Spot of Civil Society Week 2023](#)

NATIONAL PUBLIC EVENT



NATIONAL PUBLIC EVENT

#Skillsforall



Conceived as a meeting point of all the actors involved the event brought together

120

participants from CSOs, activists, youth, local and central government institutions, academic institutions and media

4

panelists representing CSOs, public and academic institutions

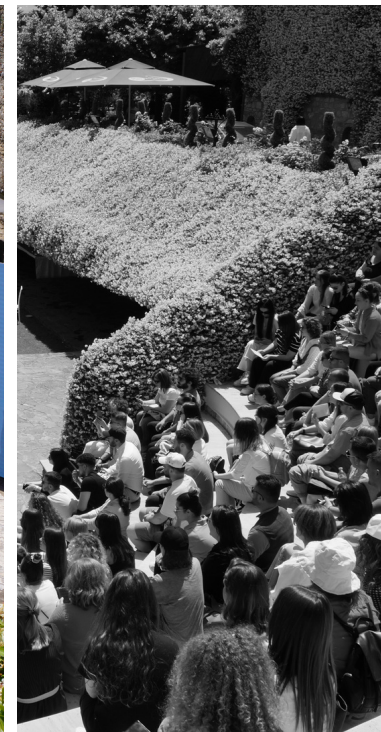
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Thematic workshops

1. Life Skills
2. Participatory democracy: empowering citizens and stakeholders for greater engagement in policymaking
3. Training and integration in work and society of persons with special needs and abilities
4. Developing skills for a more sustainable and inclusive economy/employment and self-employment
5. Training and integration of persons from vulnerable groups

50

contributors with presentations in thematic discussions



Panel Discussion

"SKILLS FOR ALL" TO LEARN, WORK, ENGAGE

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In her welcoming speech, Mrs. Ariola Agolli emphasized the important role that the civil society sector has played and continues to play in the education and promotion of life skills as well as in the implementation of programs to develop these skills, mainly with groups in need, bringing and implementing new models and good practices in this context. She also focused on the importance of cooperation between CSOs-state institutions-donors-academies for the most coordinated and needs-based interventions.

Ariola Agolli

Manager of the National Resource
Center for Civil Society in Albania,
Partners Albania



"SKILLS FOR ALL" TO LEARN, WORK, ENGAGE

Civil
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Albania
2023

Ms. Joniada Hito shared the successful model piloted and consolidated for years now, of the Career Counseling Office as a provider of information and counseling on the labor market and employment opportunities, as well as other programs of the Municipality of Tirana with a focus on training groups in need and their social integration."

Joniada Hato

Head of the Career Counseling
Sector, Tirana Municipality



"SKILLS FOR ALL" TO LEARN, WORK, ENGAGE

Civil
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Ms. Marsida Hyseni presented some of AKPA's programs as one of the main institutions responsible for the employment and development of citizens' skills, through the implementation of active labor market policies, professional training programs, and social integration, in cooperation with cross-sectoral strategic partners.

Marsida Hyseni

Regional Director, National Agency
for Employment and Skills



"SKILLS FOR ALL" TO LEARN, WORK, ENGAGE

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Society
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Ms. Adela Danaj shared the experience of the European University of Tirana in career counseling programs, and in combining the academic offer with the practical one, focusing on the importance of cooperation with civil society and other sectors in this context.

Adela Danaj

Director of Programs, Office of Inter-
institutional Relations at the European
University of Tirana

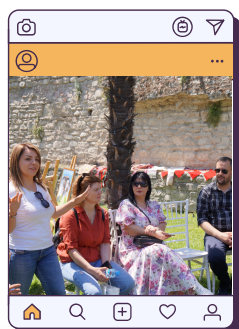
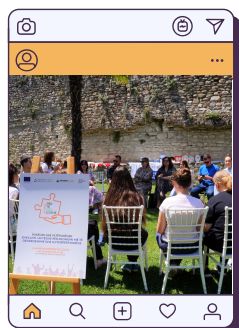


"SKILLS FOR ALL" TO LEARN, WORK, ENGAGE

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

Conclusions and recommendations

Workshop 1



Participants in the Workshop identified some of the key issues and needs related to employment and self-employment such as: (i) the need to include career counseling in compulsory education; (ii) developing internship schemes for young people as part of the NEET program; (iii) improving the Law on volunteering to be more useful and enabling in the engagement of volunteers; (iv) integrate as part of the curricula new teaching models focusing on the development of practical skills and learning, being placed "in the shoes of a professional"; (v) changing the mindset of teaching in schools (formal and non-formal education) in accordance with the needs and offers of the labor market.

Main recommendations: (i) creating work experience for young job seekers as a way to develop skills and career development; (ii) increase of information in jobseekers of public employment and self-employment programs, including information provided by regional employment offices or online portals; (iii) more space and programs, supporting young people and adults who want to start a business apart of CSO initiatives; (iv) more inclusion in schemes and models for building digital and communication skills and adaptation to labor market demands; (v) Non-formal education should be integrated in close cooperation with formal education, placing the student at the center of the learning process. This approach

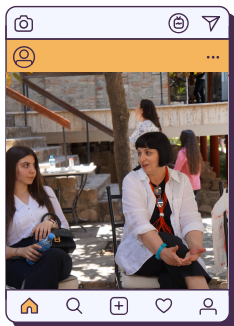
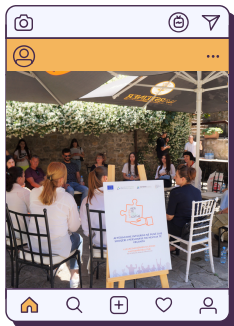
allows young people to get out of their comfort zone and experiment to successfully enter the labor market. To effectively prepare young people for employment, the implementation of innovative learning methods that go beyond traditional approaches is of the most importance. These methods should encourage creativity, critical thinking, and developing of practical skills. By applying non-formal education, young individuals can acquire a wide range of competencies that are highly valued in today's rapidly evolving labor market. It is essential that educational institutions, policy makers and stakeholders to collaborate and create an enabling environment for integration of non-formal education; (vi) There are many initiatives taken by various institutions, organisations and donors, but they remain uncoordinated and often operating at local levels. It is necessary to improve the level of visibility for best practices and to coordinate at the national level those resulted successfully. In this regard, it is important to create a national platform that would enable sharing of knowledge, establishment of new partnerships and the development of joint strategies to improve access and quality of employment initiatives throughout the country

**Employment and self-employment
Developing skills for a more sustainable
and inclusive economy**

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

Conclusions and recommendations

Workshop 2



During the workshop, civil society organisations shared their experiences and emphasized the important role played by the sector in:

- providing models of supported employment of persons with disabilities;
- inclusion of persons with disabilities in employment promotion programs;
- encouraging the design of specific employment programs for persons with disabilities;
- advocacy and concrete policy recommendations towards employment legal framework, aiming the inclusion disability in it;
- increasing awareness of persons with disabilities in approaching employment;
- changing the behavior and attitudes of the business community in employing and providing favorable conditions based on their needs.

Following as part of the discussions, the participants focused on some of the main challenges in this regard, such as: (i) shifting the paradigm from the medical model of PWD treatment to that of inclusion; (ii) the lack of preparation and orientation of PWD towards the labor market, against the financial

security provided by public supporting schemes (PWD payments); (iii) discriminatory environment; (iv) lack of preparation from schools and vocational training towards employment; (v) NPO's services due to limited opportunities are few, unsustainable and do not cover the entire territory; (vi) lack of institutional cooperation in case management; (vii) the social employment fund has not yet become active.

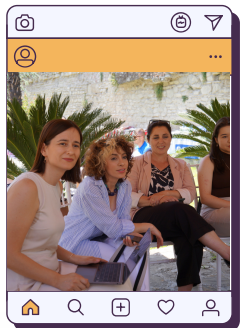
Main recommendations: (i) Implementation of the social employment fund; (ii) More support from the state, donors and international organisations with programs that focus on education, training and services for persons with disabilities; (iii) Increasing support, specifically with vocational training and labor market orientation programs for persons with disabilities, for employment and self-employment; (iv) Increasing institutional cooperation and coordination between institutions of social services, those of employment, training and professional training, for the integrated management of cases.

**Training and integration in work and society
of persons with special needs and abilities**

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

Conclusions and recommendations

Workshop 3

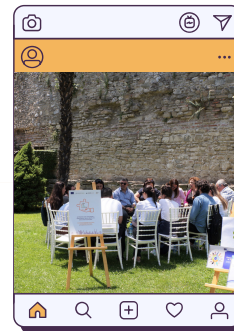


As part of the discussions, the participants emphasized: (i) the importance of the active engagement of all actors in the policy-making processes, providing them the tools and knowledge necessary for a more effective participation; (ii) the different ways and models of empowering citizens and stakeholders, as well as on strategies to achieve their sustainable engagement in policy-making such as the use of technology to encourage participation, organizing information campaigns and developing partnerships with private and public sector, etc.; (iii) the need for a continuous and sustainable commitment to strengthen citizens and stakeholders' skills by all parties involved in the process, etc.

Main recommendations: (i) bringing together all the actors aiming to continuously learning from each other's experiences, challenges and difficulties as well as helping to overcome them; (ii) building sustainable and mutual relationships of respect and cooperation.

Participatory democracy: empowering citizens and stakeholders for greater engagement in policymaking

Workshop 4



As part of the discussions, was emphasized: (i) training and integration programs are part of the case management process of adults in vulnerable situations, as one of the most important services for the resocialization of persons who may be victims of trafficking, domestic violence, or in other difficult socio-economic conditions; (ii) training and integration are processes that need to be enriched with techniques and a variety of approved modules and that will need to be applied mainly at the local level by service providers near community centers, NARU, etc.; (iii) programs are mainly provided by civil society organisations projects (for domestic violence cases, victims of trafficking, ethnic groups such as Roma and Egyptians, etc.); (iv) these programs are based on short-term projects, often unsustainable due to their costs.

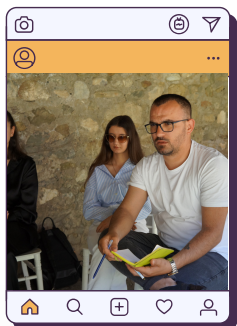
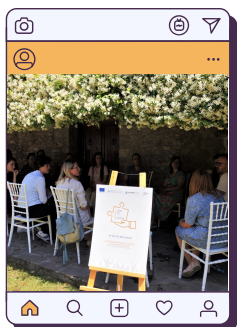
Main recommendations: (i) It is important to subsidize or subcontract civil society organisations' programs on training and reintegration of vulnerable groups, established pilot tested practices in time and beneficiary groups; (ii) these programs need to be continuous and diversified in response with the needs and difficulties of vulnerable groups since no case is similar to the other; (iii) planning and budgeting of these programs at the local level in accordance with the needs of vulnerable groups, ensuring accessibility and reliability to the beneficiaries.

Training and integration of persons from vulnerable groups

THEMATIC WORKSHOPS

Conclusions and recommendations

Workshop 5



Key issues and needs identified: (i) unable legal environment for promotion and development of life skills such as the changes in the "For Youth" law that has resulted in the closure of existing youth centers due to limitations in local funds or the law "On Voluntarism" as not at all enabling for organisations and volunteers; (ii) changes in the public administration in institutions responsible for the development and promotion of soft skills, constitutes a constant obstacle and challenge; (iii) lack of access or limited access of CSOs to educational institutions and cooperation with Local Education Offices, for the implementation of life skills initiatives for children and young people (as a result of the centralization of authorization for access); (iv) the needs of local organisations for the development of capacities in the provision of services for life skills, with a special focus on children at the age of adolescence; (v) lack of online information and counselling service (also foreseen in the National Youth Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2029) to create access to services for young people at the local level throughout the country, etc.

Main recommendations: (i) advocating at the relevant institutions responsible for the integration and inclusion of educational programs for the development of soft skills in primary education, as a key factor in child development;

(ii) recognition of the importance and contribution of the work of CSOs as providers of services lacking from the state, related to the development of soft skills, cooperation with the support of CSOs in this direction for the continuation of services; (iii) further strengthening of cooperation between CSOs and state institutions, especially at the local level, to improve the enabling environment for the development of life skills; (iv) the implementation of comprehensive and targeted programs according to the needs of the beneficiaries, whether these are young people, children, people in economic difficulties and in need, the Roma and Egyptian community, young people with special abilities, girls and women in need and those in the areas rural, the elderly, etc. (v) changing the teaching approach and methodology aiming at learning through practice as well as modern digital tools, as a more attractive and effective way of acquiring life skills; (vi) more initiatives and programs with a focus on training and orientation towards the labor market of young people in rural areas, as a potential group at risk for emigration; (vii) raising the awareness of compulsory education teaching staff on the importance of community activism and volunteering among children and young people, as well as their encouragement and promotion.

Life Skills



Contact Us



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