

# Challenges and needs of the Youth Civic Sector in times of Covid-19 pandemic

April 2020



Republic of North Macedonia

## A report regarding the situation of the youth civic sector in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

The occurrence of the COVID-19 virus pandemic in the world caused changes in the work of the civil society sector in the Republic of North Macedonia.

As a result of the situation with which most organisations that work with young people are facing, a group of youth organisations created a questionnaire to recognize the challenges and the needs of the sector.

At the same time, this way, it was created a platform which allowed to recognize the areas in which youth organisations actively work in crisis conditions and showed their readiness for adaptation and contribution in spheres essential for functioning of the whole society in conditions of an announced pandemic.

The results of this questionnaire identified as well the main needs of the youth organisations and generated recommendations that showed the key sectors and the ways of including this sector as part of the state's measures in conditions of this and similar pandemics in the future. The recommendations and suggestions were submitted to relevant organs of the Republic of North Macedonia.

### THE YOUTH CIVIC SOCIETY SECTOR IN TIMES OF A PANDEMIC

The Questionnaire was distributed in the period of 2 April till 10 April and answers and inputs were given by 40 youth organisations and organisations that work with young people in the country.

Beside the sector of youth, most of the organisations work in the following fields:

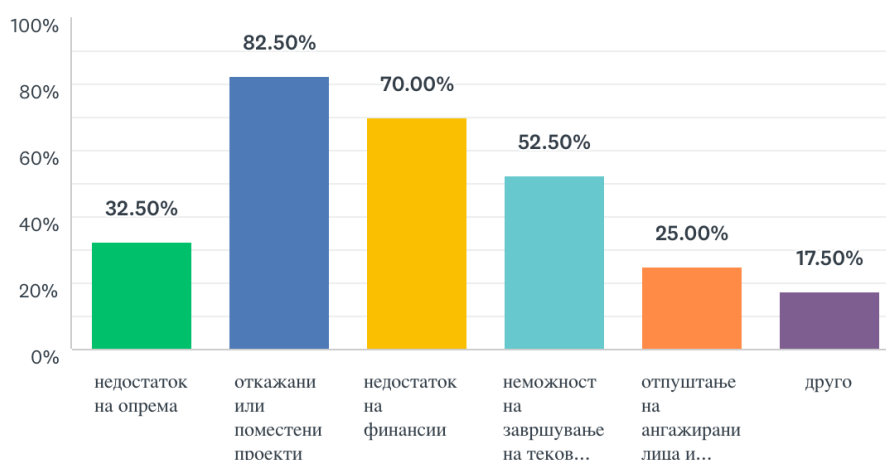
- \*non-formal education;
- \*volunteerism;
- \*youth activism and participation;
- \*entrepreneurship;
- \*human rights;
- \*media literacy.

Most of the organisations are active on a national level (40%), then local (37%), regional (18%) и only 5% do work on international level.



## Предизвици: со какви проблеми се соочува вашата организација и како ја координирате целата ситуација?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ недостаток на опрема	32.50%	13
▼ откажани или поместени проекти	82.50%	33
▼ недостаток на финансии	70.00%	28
▼ неможност на завршување на тековни административно и финансиски обврски	52.50%	21
▼ отпуштање на ангажирани лица и персонал	25.00%	10
▼ друго	17.50%	

## THE CHALLENGES OF THE YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN THE SITUATION OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

When discussing the concrete challenges which the youth organizations face in the time of the pandemic crisis, most of them recognize the **cancelling and postponing of events** as the biggest challenge(82.5%). Additionally, a big percentage of them have a **lack of finances (70%)**, as well as, **inability to finish the current administrative and financial obligations (52.5%)** , as a result of the hard-to-function institutions. There's a significant amount of percentage as well among those **who have lack of equipment for adaptation of online work (32.5%) and of course discharging of personnel (25%)** that will succeed in the upcoming period because of delayed or cancelled projects. Some organizations are also facing problems with a lack of coordination among its members and not having specific directions and help from the donors.

Програми: какви содржини нуди вашата организација во насока на подигнување на свеста за јавното здравје или други активности поврзани со моменталната состојба?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 1



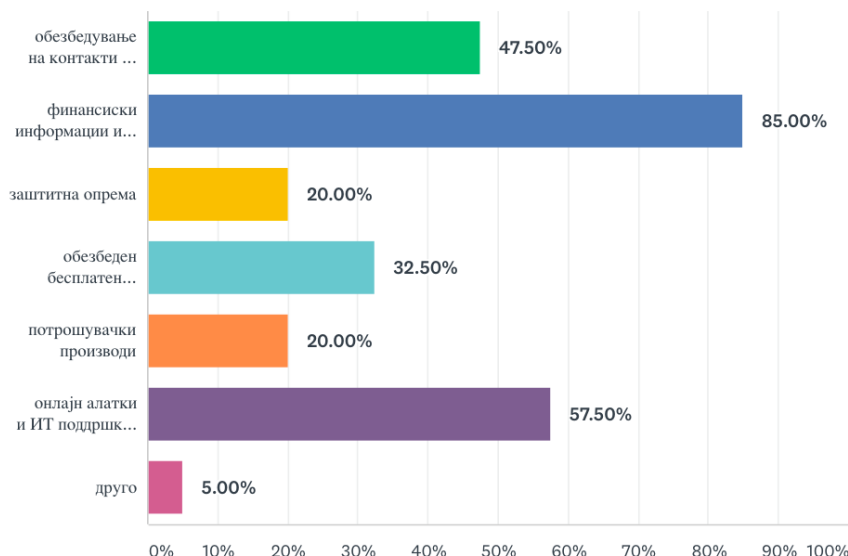
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ волонтирање и помош за повозрасните граѓани	20.00%	8
▼ работа на терен за обезбедување и дистрибуција на медицинска и друга опрема	17.50%	7
▼ информативни кампањи	75.00%	30
▼ онлајн едукативни содржини	70.00%	28
▼ нови технолошки алатки	32.50%	13
▼ друго	22.50%	9

## PROGRAMS OF THE YOUTH ORGANISATIONS IN THE SITUATION OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Regarding the question what the organisations are doing in this situation, and most specifically, how they contribute in the situation with COVID-19, most of them, even two-thirds answered that they are engaged in the spheres of **informative campaigns (75%)** and **online educational content (70%)**. The youth organisations are also active in **creating new technological tools (32.5%)** or adaptation of their current tools, as well as, **volunteering and helping the vulnerable group of citizens and fieldwork through distributing medical and different types of equipment (20%)**. A significant part of the youth organisations is also active with giving **psychological support of youth**, online **helping unemployed youth**, **analysis of media content and media literacy (22.5%)**.

Кои се потребите на Вашата организација и која дополнителна помош верувате дека може да се обезбеди од страна на државните институции?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ обезбедување на контакти или информации од институции или донатори	47.50%	19
▼ финансиски информации или помош	85.00%	34
▼ заштитна опрема	20.00%	8
▼ обезбеден бесплатен простор за работа	32.50%	13
▼ потрошувачки производи	20.00%	8
▼ онлајн алатки и ИТ поддршка за адаптација на работата	57.50%	23
▼ друго	Responses 5.00%	2

## THE NEEDS OF THE YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

In their responses of the question what are their necessities and what kind of additional help they need from the state institutions, most of the organisations responded that they need **financial information and help (85%)** , as well as **providing contacts from institutions and donors that can offer aid (47.5%)**. Half of the respondents also think that the institutions should maybe start offering **online tools and technological support for adaptation of the work of the organisations (57.5%)**. The number of organisations who believe that the institutions should also **supply free-of-charge working space (32.5%)** because of the financial difficulties that they face is also not small. The organisations that work with vulnerable groups of citizens need **protection equipment and consumer goods (20%)**.



Дали вашата организација е спремна да се адаптира кон нови или изменети програми, проекти или активности кои ќе произлезат како потреба со појавата на Ковид-19 ? Ве молиме наведете кои:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ волонтерство и работа на терен, хуманитарна работа и активизам	12.20%
▼ креирање јавни онлајн кампањи	26.83%
▼ ИТ алатки и содржина за образование на ученици, наставници, млади	21.95%
▼ соработка со бизнис сектор и прибирање средства од приватни донатори	2.44%
▼ соработка со јавен сектор	4.88%
▼ едукација за здравје, животна средина и сл.	7.32%
▼ помош и поддршка на млади кои ќе останат без работа, работнички права	9.76%
▼ детектирање на лажни вести и дезинформации и мониторинг на истите	7.32%
▼ друго	Responses 7.32%

## THE YOUTH ORGANISATIONS ARE READY TO MAKE AVAILABLE THEIR CAPACITIES IN CRISIS CONDITIONS

The youth organisations, in conditions of a crisis, are ready to adjust to the new situation and to adapt their projects and programs, as well as, offer their capacities if needed. There are different areas in which they can offer aid. Most of the organisations can be engaged in **creating public online campaigns (26.8%)**, **creating or adapting educational content for students, teachers and youth (21.95%)**. A significant number of organisations can also help with **programs for volunteering and working remotely (12.20%)**, **supporting young people that will lose their jobs(9.76%)**, **educating in health and living environment (7.32%)** and, **detecting online disinformation (7.32%)**. The youth organisations want to **collaborate with the public and private sector(4.88% & 2.44%)** in conditions of a crisis, as well as, after the crisis ends with a final result of joint action and better readiness of the society for adjusting in a crisis like this or similar ones.

## MEASURES FOR SUPPORT OF THE YOUTH CIVIC SOCIETY SECTOR AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE TIMES OF CRISIS

- Introducing of vouchers for youth organisations and organisations for young people;
- Providing project funds directed towards the youth;
- Subsidizing of wages and contributions for the employees in youth organisations and organisations for young people;
- Decreasing of the personal tax for people involved in youth organisations or organisations for young people;
- Administrative grants for youth organisations and organisations of young people;
- Providing physical and virtual space for working with young people, intended for youth organisations and organisations for young people;
- Financial support for youth workers and providing opportunities for their further education;
- Promotion and appliance of the Law for Youth Participation and Youth Politics;
- Support of the youth organisations and organisations for young people in acquiring financial support from the donor society;
- Financial support of youth organisations and organisations for young people through operational/institutional irreversible grants;
- Providing educational opportunities for qualification and further qualification of youth;
- Financial support for access to platforms for implementing online activities, for youth organisations and organisations for young people;
- Providing administrative and legal support for the youth organisations and organisations for young people;
- Creating research and cooperation tools of the youth sector and the relevant institutions;
- Introducing grants for emergency interventions;
- Providing allowances, transport and additional conditions for realisation of field activities for the youth organisations and organisations for young people in the period of curfew;
- Implementing of a consultative process with young people, youth organisations and organisations for young people while administering new aid measures;
- Financial aid and support for young people who lost their job placing in the period of crisis;
- Support of young professionals for creating of new innovative solutions related to facing new changed reality;
- Free-of-charge digital services for young people, youth organisations, organisations for young people;
- Educational courses for using of IT technologies for young people, youth organisations, organisations for young people;
- Support for digitalisation of the youth sector;
- Volunteering actions for helping the vulnerable group of citizens;
- Creating opportunities for targeting direct users, marginalised groups and people with fewer opportunities on a local level;
- Providing of protection equipment for employees in the youth organisations and organisations for young people;

Based on the results of this report, a platform which showcases all of the organisations that took their time to respond to the questionnaire was created. On the map are defined all the fields in which the organisations are active in times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The goal is to put together all the organisations for young people that make available of their capacities to include them in future times of crisis. If you want your organisation to be included on this platform, please communicate us here.