CENTER FOR SOCIAL INITIATIVES NADEZ

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023



“Let's change the world. Let's give hope!”

Dear supporters of CSI Nadez,

The year 2023 was a year full of challenges for us, starting from the change of the President of the association, to constantly monitoring open calls for project applications and involving volunteers, both Macedonian and foreign, as well as interns who were, and still are, involved in the work of the organization as a whole, following the mutual need for action.

Guided by our mission to actively strive to improve the quality of life for marginalized communities by providing equal access to quality education, social integration, and promoting and implementing activities to acquire skills for young people, this year we as a team challenged ourselves to be more active regionally, nationally, and internationally.

This year, CSI Nadez signed 15 memorandums of cooperation with schools, institutions, and non-governmental organizations, which are a key part of broader involvement of the targeted groups.

This year, team members were part of many events and occurrences, where our work was promoted and brought us successful collaborations for partnership activities on certain topics.

The President, the Management, and the Supervisory Board are constantly involved in decision-making through mutual cooperation, which is crucial for the normal functioning of the organization.

With respect,

The Team of CSI Nadez

IDENTITY CARD OF CSI NADEZ

VISION

Quality living and economic well-being for marginalized communities in North Macedonia.

MISSION

The Association CSI Nadez Skopje is a civil organization that actively strives to improve the quality of life by providing equal access to quality education, social integration, and promoting and implementing activities to acquire skills for young people and marginalized communities, with a focus on the Roma in North Macedonia.

OUR VALUES:

Social justice

Equal educational opportunities

Youth participation

Gender equality

Empowerment

Equality

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND GOALS

1. Providing educational support to children and young people from marginalized families to facilitate easier mastery of school and preschool content;
2. Supporting the reintegration and inclusion of returnees from European countries into local communities;
3. Increasing the involvement of young people in local communities
4. Improving the social inclusion of marginalized groups through the concept of social entrepreneurship.



WHAT WE DO

"JOINT SERVICES FOR REINTEGRATION"

Joint services for reintegration are the core of the Fronex Reintegration Program. This program provides reintegration assistance to returnees who leave voluntarily or involuntarily from member countries and Schengen – associated countries, returning to their countries of origin. At the same time, it contributes to an effective return policy in the European Union, ensuring that returns are conducted in a dignified and human manner. For the implementation of this assistance, Frontex has partnered with CARITAS International Belgium, which collaborates with CSI Nadez in North Macedonia to ensure the provision of high – level support (arrival assistance and post return assistance).



ACTIVITIES

- Strengthening organizational capacities for working with returnees from member countries through the JRS program (training of the project team to work on the specialized RIAT platform through which all project activities are implemented, as well as networking activities for all partners participating in the project);
  Reintegration Packages
  Reintegration support consists of two types of packages:
  - Short-term package lasting 3 days (arrival assistance), which includes the following available services: reception of the returnee at the airport, organizing transportation to the place of residence/accommodation, temporary or emergency accommodation for up to 3 days after arrival, medical support upon arrival;
  - Long-term package lasting up to 12 months (post-return assistance), which includes the following available services: long-term accommodation, medical support, education (schooling, training/requalification), employment counseling and support for access to the labor market, legal assistance, psychosocial support, support for starting a small business.

During 2023, within the framework of the program, 16 cases were included, out of which 14 received reintegration support (post – return assistance) and 2 cases received both arrival assistance and post – return assistance.

AMIF – REINTEGRATION OF RETURNEES FROM BELGIUM

The goal of the project is to provide reintegration support to individuals returning from Belgium to Macedonia, for a duration of 12 months.

Reintegration services include:

- Basic assistance upon arrival (airport reception, emergency or temporary accommodation, legal, administrative, and social support, etc.)
- Social support (contact with the returnee's social network/mediation, education and schooling for the returnee and their children, vocational training)
- Assistance for vulnerable returnees (such as sick people, elderly individuals, exploited migrants, pregnant women, guiding them to specialized services according to their specific needs: medical care, psychosocial support, etc.)
- Assistance for starting a small business or job counseling (supporting individuals or families to establish income-generating activities such as purchasing goods, renting locations, etc.)
- Assistance for unaccompanied minors

During 2023, withing the framework of the program, reintegration support was provided to 5 cases/families of returnees from Belgium.



"DIGITAL LITERACY FOR ROMA CHILDREN AND PARENTS"

The main goal of this project is to promote digital literacy within the Roma community. The specific objectives are:

- To train 20 Roma parents in digital literacy skills such as internet navigation, online communication, online bill payment, using ATM services, and especially digital security.
- To strengthen the capacities of 50 Roma children and youth by acquiring skills to protect their personal data on social media and the internet, using good tools for online communication, and utilizing educational platforms.
- To provide access to digital technology, such as computers and tablets, for Roma children and parents to practice their new skills.
- To promote the use of digital technology for education, job opportunities, and social integration within the Roma community.

Activities:

1. Conducting a needs assesment to indetify specific digital literacy skills that Roma clidren and parents need to develop;
2. Developing a training program that meets the indetified needs and providing training to 20 Roma parents;
3. Developing a training program and providing training to 50 Roma youth and children;
4. Providing access to digital technology and ongoing support.



Results:

- Two surveys were conducted: the first among the local population, through which certain information about the current needs of the population in terms of digital services and the use of opportunities offered by the virtual world were obtained, and the second among students from primary schools and young people, through which we learned about the real needs of the youth from the Shuto Orizari municipality for easier access to digital technology and how they cope with the problems of virtual violence;

- Based on the results obtained from the research, a training program was developed that meets the identified needs and provides training for 20 Roma parents. They became digitally literate for online communication, online bill payment, ATM services, using online services to obtain necessary documentation from government institutions, and most importantly for digital security;

- Additionally, a program for children was developed (with developed modules and materials prepared for use). More than 50 children were trained in "Protection of personal data on social networks and the internet", "Use of educational platforms" and "Use of good tools for online communication";

- All 20 Roma parents and more than 50 Roma children and youth were given access to digital technology to practice their new skills;

- Improved quality of life for the Roma community through increased digital literacy skills and access to digital technology.





INITIATE – REALIZE – CHANGE

The goal of the project is to support the community in better understanding its security issues and to build more effective capacities for dealing with them.

Activities and Results:

- Conducted research mapping the capacities at the local level, as well as the acts and procedures used for dealing with elementary disasters and threats through an online questionnaire with over 200 respondents from the Butel municipality and conducted three focus groups with teachers, parents, and representatives from the local government of the Butel municipality;
- Recommendations were drafted and submitted to the Butel municipality by a working group led by 3 experts for improving/enhancing existing plans/procedures for dealing with elementary disasters at the local level;
- Established collaboration between local schools, the Red Cross municipal organization, the Ministry of Interior, and the local authorities to conduct training and simulation exercises in 4 schools at the local level;
- Two-day training sessions were conducted consisting of theoretical and practical parts (simulation exercises) to enhance the capacities of 4 pilot schools for dealing with elementary disasters and threats. Simultaneously, student preventive teams were formed in each pilot school at the local level;
- Created and implemented a promotional campaign with 20 content pieces shared on social media platforms to raise awareness among the broader public at the local level to initiate and engage in initiatives for preventing elementary disasters and threats.





“IMPROVE YOUR MIND AND EMBRACE YOUR FUTURE PROFESSION”



The project started implementation in November 2023 and is supported through the ERASMUS+ KA 210 - Small-scale Partnerships in the field of vocational education and training by the National Agency for European Educational Programs and Mobility in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The aim of this project is to strengthen the individual capacities and employability skills of women from rural areas, women with physical disabilities, unemployed women, Roma women, and single mothers through the implementation of soft skills and entrepreneurship training.

Through the implementation of the planned activities, a total of 15 women will acquire basic knowledge and skills for entrepreneurship and freelance opportunities according to their needs. At the same time, their soft skills will be enhanced, making them more competitive in the labor market. At the end of the project, an intercultural exchange of experiences is envisaged with our partners Work in Progress and EUVillages from Italy, through which the organizational capacities of CSI NADEZ will be strengthened for counseling, advocacy, and promotion of female entrepreneurship.

Erasmus+
Enriching lives, opening minds.

EUROPEAN CHANGE MAKERS: SHAPING THE FUTURE

The European Change Makers is a European network led by Education for an Interdependent World (EDIW), an international association established in 1996 with headquarters in Brussels, and other 11 national organizations belonging to ten European countries, with CSI NADEZ as one of them.

This project began implementation on 01.01.2023 and is funded by the Erasmus Plus Program.

Project goal: Strengthening youth in the European Year of Youth (2023) by recognizing youth work through learning about democracy.

Activities:

- Participation of young people from the Shuto Orizari municipality in AGORA sessions as an online space for sharing ideas, facts, volunteering, youth participation partnerships, and improving the situation of young people in the European Union, which for Macedonia would mean an interest in learning European values;

- Workshops conducted with young people up to 30 years old on digital literacy and safe use of social media.

SUPPORT FOR A FRESH START

On September 1st, 2023, the NGO CSI Nadiezh - Skopje commenced the implementation of the project "Support for a Fresh Start for Women Convicts, Previously Convicted, and Women under Probationary Supervision in the City of Skopje," as part of the project "Establishment of Community Services to Support the Resocialization and Reintegration of Former Convicts," implemented by the Macedonian Young Lawyers Association and financially supported by the European Union under the IPA/2022/433-960 program.

The goal of the project is to assist the most vulnerable women convicts, previously convicted, and/or women under probationary supervision to lead responsible lives, distance themselves from their past, and take an active role in planning their future after release from prison and/or completion of their sentence. The project aims to involve 10 women from the territory of the city of Skopje.

In 2023, several activities were successfully implemented, including::

- Strengthening communication and collaboration with public institutions to involve participants in project activities.
- Capacity building of CSI Nadiezh to provide national services (service provider) for resocialization, reintegration, and post-penal care in accordance with legal regulations and the best international and European standards.
- Issuance of a call for organizing training sessions for cosmetic services for women.



ZZZ – JOINT EFFORTS FOR GREEN ADVOCACY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

On December 1st, 2023, CSI Nadiezh initiated the implementation of the project "ZZZ - Joint Efforts for Green Advocacy for Environmental Protection" in partnership with the Center for Youth Activism CMAC-KRIK Skopje as the leading organization and the Association of Social Workers of Macedonia Skopje as a partner organization.

The project idea aims to pilot and introduce green social work and social transformation as holistic perspectives that strive to support people's well-being in overcoming existing climate changes and maintaining a healthy environment. The activities are based on advocating and implementing the concept of the right to a healthy environment for all through green social work and the need for social transformation to cope with and build resilience to these changes.

The main goal of the project is to introduce the ecological, so-called "green" perspective into professional social and youth work as one of the key perspectives for environmental protection, but also for building an inclusive and democratic society for all.

In 2023, initial meetings were held with the project team and the donor to plan the activities that will be implemented by September 30th, 2026.



MOBILIZATION OF ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THROUGH HUMANITARIAN/CHARITABLE ACTIONS

1. GLOBAL GIVING

During 2023, CSO Nadezh worked on promoting its project "Give education to 60 vulnerable Roma children - GlobalGiving" on the Global Giving platform, aiming to mobilize additional resources for the continuous implementation of activities at the Educational Center Nadezh.

Thanks to donations from individuals worldwide, a total of $15,230 was raised within the platform during 2023. These funds were utilized to carry out activities with school-aged children at the Educational Center Nadezh in Shuto Orizari.





2. CSI NADEZ for the second consecutive year is a national leader in the global movement Giving Tuesday

Throughout 2023, CSO Nadezh participated in numerous events and networking sessions with the global Giving Tuesday family, while continuously running social media campaigns to promote the national movement in Macedonia.



From May 29 to June 2, 2023, our representative Tatjana Dimitrova participated in the Global Summit of Giving Tuesday held in Lisbon. At this event, national leaders from nearly 100 countries worldwide gathered with a common goal - to create a generous world and a shared vision of how to achieve it: together, with trust, accountability, co-creation, and optimism.



3. Останати акции за мобилизација на дополнителни ресурси

- Collaboration with Green Growth Platform: Secured products from Vitalia Healthy Food for the children of the Educational Center NADEZH;



- Donation of school backpacks and chocolate milk from BIMILK for a happy start to the 2023/2024 school year for the children of the Educational Center NADEZ;





- Humanitarian action for New Year's joy in collaboration with the Macedonian Medical Association, during which New Year's and educational packages were provided for all children of the Educational Center NADEZ;





- Humanitarian action by Stichting Mara Groningen, providing fruits, vitamins, and hygiene products for 40 children from the Educational Center NADEZ, as well as support for renovating the road leading to the Educational Center.



INTERNSHIP AND VOLUNTEERING AT CSI NADEZ

During 2023, we continued the implementation of the volunteer program in collaboration with our partner Pax Christi Aachen. As part of this program, our volunteer from Germany, Helene Pickard, has been providing support to activities with children at the Nadezh Educational Center since September 2023.



During 2023, the internship program was also continued in collaboration with Caritas College Olomouc from the Czech Republic. As part of this program, interns Veronika Kozakova and Petra Zahradkova completed a three-month practical work experience in our organization, actively engaging in activities with children at the Educational Center.



Our internship program was enriched in collaboration with the National Youth Council of Macedonia, with the support of their Internship Program. Katerina Durtanova, a graduate of the Institute of Social Work and Social Policy, joined our team in December 2023. During her two-month internship at NADEZH, she had the opportunity to work directly with our social workers and gain experience, particularly in the field of reintegration of returnees.".



In November 2023, our team was expanded with the addition of Benjamin Arndt, a Peace Corps volunteer. He will be serving his volunteer term in the community with NADEZH for the next 2 years.





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