

**THEMATIC COMPILATION OF RELEVANT INFORMATION SUBMITTED
BY THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

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AWARENESS-RAISING MEASURES AND EDUCATION

**THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA (FOURTH
MEETING)**

Project

"Anti-corruption education of elementary school students"

Background

The seriousness of the corruption problem imposes the establishment of a comprehensive system of measures and activities. In order to reach the desired results combating corruption is an obligation not only of the competent state institutions, but also of the citizens. The lack of fully built societal culture of non-acceptance and reporting of bribery and corruption weakens the participation of the citizens and their pressure on the institutions for more tangible results in combating corruption to a large extent.

Also, it is evident that in this process of combating corruption, the young people of Macedonia are mainly left aside by the state institutions and the civil sector. The overall educational process of young people lacks content targeting the term corruption and the consequences of corruption over the society. As a phenomenon, corruption has its reflection in the educational system itself. Namely, the last survey of the Ministry of Education in May 2010 showed that almost 59.5% of the citizens deem the existence of corruption in the education. In such circumstances, the young people are not in a position to develop a proper attitude towards the harmfulness of corruption and to observe the societal benefits of good governance. This societal glitch has already been affirmed by the lack of reports of corruption by the pupils and students on the hotline numbers that were established several years ago by the Ministry of Education and to the student ombudsman, which is contrary to the findings of surveys, that education is facing with corruption.

Problems that will be resolved with the implementation of this Project

The purpose of this Project was to prepare an Anti-Corruption Programme for educating the students in the Elementary schools and to affirm the need for introduction of these programmes as extra curricula in the education, as a fundamental step towards active participation of the young people and systematic change of the current culture of passive acceptance of corruption.

For the purpose of timely reaction towards positive change of the situation, the Anti-Corruption Programme will cover education of what is corruption; how it threatens

human rights; negative effects of the corruption on the economy and the democratic development of the country.

The Project will be firstly implemented as pilot lectures in the schools in three municipalities in Macedonia in order to prove in practice that such educational programme may contribute, and on the grounds of the positive results, affirm and promote the intention for systemic integration of anti-corruption lectures in the elementary schools.

Project carriers are the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption, as an institution which is directly involved in, above all, creation of strategic preventive measures and activities for prevention of corruption and conflict of interests, as well as building integrity of individuals and institutions; and

Centre for Civil Communications as a non-governmental organisation whose main mission is to improve and develop communication among the societal factors in Macedonia in regards to processes of wider societal relevance, above all in the field of anti-corruption, local self-government and economic development.

Target Group of this Project is elementary school students. The seventh grade students were selected as a target group taking into account that they are old enough to receive properly information which is relevant for raising their awareness on the harmful effects of corruption and conflict of interests.

Initiating the process for integration of anti-corruption content in the education will represent an exceptional step towards building an active citizenship among the young. End beneficiaries of these project activities will be all citizens, since the idea for introducing the anti-corruption in the education leads towards a strategic aspect of efficient prevention of corruption in the country.

As per the project objectives and positive expert opinions from the Bureau of Education Development, the Ministry of Education and Science supported the project and gave its consent to implement the Project, thus allowing in the forthcoming period a long-term systemic integration of these lectures in the educational system and covering all students.

In accordance with the project activities set for achieving the objectives, several activities have been realised since May 2012:

- An expert team was established to determine the content and form of the anti-corruption lectures. The expert team drafted:
 - Anti-corruption Programme for Education of Elementary School Students (Programme),
 - Teacher's Manual for delivering anti-corruption lectures during classes and extra curricular activities,
 - Promotional material – poster and notebooks with the Project's slogan "Corruption – cutting the branch on which you are sitting".

- In cooperation with external collaborators-experts, SCPC has carried out training for the teachers from the pilot schools in October 2012.
- As per the recommendations with the Ministry of Education and Science, the lectures envisaged in the Programme were carried out as part of the extra curricular activities within the subject Civic Education with students from the seventh grade. About one hundred students in total took part.
- At the beginning and at the end of this Project, all students involved in the lectures were sent the questionnaires on recognition of corruption, and a comparative analysis was conducted in order to assess the change of knowledge among the students.
- A Final Report was drafted – Policy Paper including the final assertions and recommendations for further action.
- Best student works were selected, depending on the manner and form of expression (written works, performances, drawings, video spots, etc.).
- The documents were submitted to the Ministry of Education and Science, including the Final Report, i.e. "Policy Paper" stating the need for introducing anti-corruption content, firstly in the extra curricular activities for the subject Civic Education in all schools, and then in the regular curricula, and for determining the next activities (possibility to include the MoES in regards to the signing of diplomas and presentation of the Minister in the media show / event planned in June 2013 for the purpose of promoting the Project activities, and especially the Final Report – Policy Paper).
- An event within the youth programme of the National Radio Television (MRTV) has been scheduled, during which the activities will be presented and the importance of the Project results will be emphasized. During the event, students will receive awards, teachers will receive certificates, students and schools will receive letters of gratitude, and the students will have an opportunity to present their works, papers, and creations with which they participated on the Competition.
- The "Policy Paper" was submitted to the media and published on the SCPC website.