

CASE STUDY:

Introducing DigiPAC to high school teachers in Skopje



Strengthening the capacities of high school teachers in enhancing digital youth participation and active citizenship in Skopje





Executive summary

In October 2022, [Coalition of youth organizations SEGA](#) conducted a piloting activity to introduce the methodology and **strengthen the capacities of high school teachers and youth workers in enhancing digital youth participation and active citizenship in Skopje.**

This piloting activity is connected with the collaboration between high schools in the Skopje region. This collaboration was established, and 4 high schools accepted the invitation to be part of the training activity. The DigiPAC methodology was introduced to the teachers of high schools in order to support **young people's initiatives and increase their motivation** to participate in non-formal activities.

Therefore, the following outcomes were achieved:

- 4 high schools have used OPIN and will use OPIN in the future
- 70 students took part in the follow-up workshops and got familiar with digital youth participation and the OPIN platform
- 6 projects were created on OPIN based on the needs of the young people, whereby they had a chance to comment and participate in the process.

These capacity-building activities provided teachers a unique chance to discover the DigiPAC methodology that they can use in their school work programmes and non-formal activities.

Furthermore, through the implementation of projects on OPIN, this experience has made them aware of the importance of collaborating **with decision in order to realize initiatives and projects given by young people.**

Case study

Objective: SEGA implemented a DigiPAC piloting project to build the capacities of high school teachers to support young people's initiatives and increase their motivation to participate in non-formal activities.

Activities: The piloting project activities focused on the collaboration with high schools in order to motivate and support youth initiatives and promote collaboration with local decision makers. This collaboration was established in the preparatory phase of the training in the Skopje region. In October 2022, Coalition SEGA realized a second DigiPAC training for high school teachers and youth workers from Skopje.

After the collaboration and conducted trainings, high school teachers realized follow-up activities - workshops with students introducing digital youth participation using OPIN and motivating them to participate in non-formal activities.

After the workshop and collecting ideas on the OPIN platform, students collaborated with their teachers in order to implement their ideas for improvement the school environment. OPIN, as an innovative online tool for e-participation, was introduced to high school teachers and each of them were asked to create profiles for their own organizations on the platform to motivate them to use this tool for their projects in the future.

SEGA supported the teachers during follow-up activities.





Outcomes, impact and sustainability

The introduction of the unique methodology of DigiPAC to teachers motivated them to **organize local follow-up activities** with students (workshops). Their feedback regarding DigiPAC shows that they find this methodology easy to use and they are willing to integrate it in their daily practices regarding non-formal activities and programmes with students.

As a result of these piloting activities in North Macedonia, a total of:

- **4 high schools** piloted the DigiPAC methodology at the local level
- **70 high school students** took part in the follow-up activities and got familiar with digital youth participation and the OPIN tool.

6 project ideas for improving the school environment, such as projects for ecology, local initiatives for the food providers near the school, media literacy evaluation for young people, youth participation in schools, a movie room in the school and more were created on OPIN, commented on and participated in by young people.

Some examples of project ideas: [SEPUGS "Vasil Antevski - Dren"](#), [ASUC "Boro Petrushevski"](#), [SUGS "Maria Kiri - Sklodovska"](#)

What do high school teachers think?

"The toolkit that we got to use contains really interesting activities that can be integrated into the curricula, especially for the subjects of civic education and sociology. Visually presented workshops are easy to use and it encourage the critical opinion of young people about everyday minor and major problems. In the materials themselves, the goals that would be fulfilled after the execution of the activities are clearly shown".

Kristijan Stojanovski, Professor in high school, SEPUGS "Vasil Antevski-Dren", Skopje, North Macedonia

"The DigiPAC methodology of the ACTIon project, which was implemented by the coalition SEGA, was successfully implemented in our high school "Maria Kiri - Sklodovska" Skopje. Our students - young people were delighted with the project, because they had a role in something that needs to be decided, especially when it comes to young people. This means that their voice was heard, and they learned new things related to youth participation using DigiPAC. The methodology from the handbook was very understandable with interesting content, which were fully conveyed to the young people and they feel empowered and ready for new challenges. With expectations of new projects of this nature".

Dragana Mirkovikj, Professor in high school, SUGS "Maria Kiri - Sklodovska" Skopje, North Macedonia

"The transferred methodology for DigiPAC provides step-by-step instructions that make it very easy to implement the program. All 3 modules of the training program are well explained with a





detailed description of the activities, and the topics offered are quite interesting for instilling a theoretical basis in young people about democratic values as well as forming their own knowledge, skills and competences with the help of digital tools”.

Maja Aevska, Professor in high school, ASUC “Boro Petrushevski” Skopje, North Macedonia

