



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# YOUTH ACTIVELY CREATE OPPORTUNITIES



## Goals

Increase positive youth contributions to society and collective youth leadership

## Duration

February 2023– January 2028

## USAID Funding

\$7 million

## Implementing Partner

Improving Economies for Stronger Communities

## In partnership with

- Center for Entrepreneurship and Executive Development (CEED) Macedonia
- Youth Education Forum

## USAID Contact

Tara Kalaputi  
tkalaputi@usaid.gov

## BACKGROUND

The youth of North Macedonia face significant challenges, including a lack of attractive careers, unemployment and underemployment, inadequate skills for jobs, and minimal opportunities for career advancement. Youth also have few opportunities for civic engagement and, therefore, struggle to meaningfully contribute to society.

The government historically has prioritized party affiliation and politics over citizens' needs. Endemic corruption, lack of a merit-based system, and minimal environmental standards are also contributing factors that push youth to leave the country. Data shows that almost half of all youth plan to emigrate in pursuit for better jobs and pay, career progression, good living standards, and observance of the rule of law. If supported and empowered, the youth of North Macedonia can act as change agents and drive a positive change in the country's progression.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program is based on strategic principles to: work with youth, for youth; act upon windows of opportunities that arise to make society more prosperous and democratic; and ensure that North Macedonia is a better place to live. USAID will partner with the private sector, youth groups, civil society, and governmental institutions to (1) support economic opportunities that are attractive to youth; (2) help strengthen youths' competencies for modern and future jobs, progressive careers, and civic life; and (3) promote the experiences that cultivate values for participation and taking responsibility, ethical conduct, civic engagement, and striving for personal and collective accomplishments.

## EXPECTED RESULTS AND IMPACT

- More youth will secure attractive internship placements, employment, or self-employment.
- Businesses will be more interested in investing in youth innovation.
- Youth will have access to specialized and innovative skill-building that leads to careers.
- Youth will be civically active in anti-corruption, environmental protection, and the inclusion of marginalized populations.



[usaid.gov/north-macedonia](https://usaid.gov/north-macedonia)



[USAIDNorthMacedonia](https://www.facebook.com/USAIDNorthMacedonia)



[USAIDNMacedonia](https://twitter.com/USAIDNMacedonia)

7/2024