

Civic Circles – From Institutional Silence to Youth-Led Dialogue

1. BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Official Project Title	Civic Circles – From Institutional Silence to Youth-Led Dialogue
Acronym / Short Name	Civic Circles
Programme / Funding Source	Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), through the RYCOgnizing YPS programme
Duration	2025–2026; expert engagement for preparation of the Policy Brief – June 2026
Coordinator	Youth Cultural Center – Bitola
Partner Institutions	Pro Local – Bitola, relevant local institutions and the nine municipalities of the Pelagonia region

2. PARTICIPATION OF UNIVERSITY SKOPJE ACADEMIC STAFF

Name and Surname: Prof. Dr. Ana Sekulovska Jovkovska

Academic Title: Associate Professor

Role / Function in the Project: Expert for preparation of the public policy analytical document “Regional Youth Policy” (Policy Brief)

Specific Contribution to the Project

Expert analysis and systematisation of data and findings related to youth policies and youth participation in the Pelagonia region. Analysis of the situation, needs and challenges in the nine municipalities of the region, with a particular focus on mechanisms for youth participation and institutional dialogue. Formulation of conclusions and specific recommendations for improving regional youth policy, as well as preparation and structuring of the final public policy analytical document – Policy Brief “Regional Youth Policy”.

3. CONTENT AND ACHIEVED RESULTS

Brief Project Description

The project “Civic Circles – From Institutional Silence to Youth-Led Dialogue” is a regional initiative aimed at improving youth participation, democratic dialogue and cooperation between young people and institutions in the Pelagonia region. Through the organisation of local civic/democratic circles, young people from the nine municipalities had the opportunity to identify key challenges and needs in their local communities and propose specific initiatives and solutions. The project enabled the systematisation of young people’s views and needs and their translation into public policy recommendations. As a significant result, the analytical document “Regional Youth Policy” was prepared, providing a basis for improving mechanisms for youth participation, inter-municipal cooperation and continuous dialogue with local institutions.

Key Results / Outputs

Prepared public policy analytical document “Regional Youth Policy” (Policy Brief); analysis of the situation and needs of young people in the Pelagonia region; identified key challenges in the nine municipalities; formulated recommendations for improving regional and local youth policies; implemented local civic circles; strengthened dialogue between young people and local institutions; established a basis for further regional cooperation in the field of youth policies.

Publications / DOI / Other Relevant Scientific Results

“Regional Youth Policy” – Policy Brief / public policy analytical document, 2026, prepared within the project “Civic Circles – From Institutional Silence to Youth-Led Dialogue”.

4. SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FACULTY

Benefits for Students, Teaching and/or Research

The expert engagement contributes to connecting the academic and research work of University Skopje with practical public policy development at local and regional level. The analysis and Policy Brief can be used as a practical case study in teaching and research, particularly in the areas of public policies, digitalisation, local governance, youth and civic participation and decision-making processes. The project additionally contributes to strengthening the University's cooperation with civil society organisations, local governments and regional and international organisations and opens opportunities for future research and project initiatives.

5. LINK

Official Website / Project Link: Project “Civic Circles – From Institutional Silence to Youth-Led Dialogue” / Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)