

Subject “Cultural heritage in the hands of young people” in VET schools

North Macedonia

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<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1F0R8LdDNE-Fnf94RJpiNtUvSiKPdWesc/view>

DESCRIPTION

Since 2021, the **elective subject “Cultural heritage in the hands of young people”** has been introduced for first-year vocational school students of 75 schools in North Macedonia.

The subject is taught for a total amount of **72 hours in a school year** and the curriculum consists of **five modular units**:

- Convention on cultural heritage
- Identity and cultural heritage
- Tourism and cultural heritage
- Environment and cultural heritage
- Culture of peace and cultural heritage

The activities of the curriculum are carried out through projects where students **research** and, depending on the professional specialisation (construction, communication, tourism, chemical technology, etc.) they **undertake specific activities that contribute to the well-being and preservation of the heritage cultural**.

For example, students at a textile school have sewed national/folk costumes as elements of cultural heritage.

Students at a tourism school prepared a guide to direct tourists to the places of interest to visit in their municipality, while tourism management students focused on how to organise tourism without damaging the cultural heritage. Meanwhile, construction major students analysed the construction of buildings with cultural significance, the specifics of construction and architecture and how to work respecting the cultural heritage.

Through this curriculum, every student of each educational sector explores the **connection between the influences of vocational education on the cultural heritage and the preservation of the living environment**.

This program **aims** to:

- contribute to the preservation of cultural heritage;
- cultivate respect for all peoples and cultures and for the identity of each individuals;
- identify ways to actively contribute to the preservation of both heritage and the environment;
- understand the consequences of mass tourism;
- promote peaceful resolution the conflicts.

REFLECTIONS

The implementation of the curriculum has motivated students to **engage in various activities having an impact on local co-governance**. The **interest of students to participate in the program has been increasing every year**, also demonstrating a **growing awareness among young people about the importance of contributing to a better environment**.

IMPACT

Students from different VET programs work in projects with a **focus on their specialisation**, allowing them to see **how their professional studies can affect the preservation of cultural heritage and environment**.