

## Peer mediation for conflict resolution in VET schools

### Montenegro

#### DESCRIPTION

In Montenegro, **violence – domestic, peer-to-peer and online – and its prevention** is part of **syllabus for the compulsory subject** of Sociology. It includes 36 lessons in total in 3-year VET schools and 72 lessons in total in 4-year VET schools.

In addition to that, since 2019, peer mediation for conflict resolution has been implemented in most VET schools. The schools have teams of **students trained for peer mediation** through programs provided by NGO organisations on ad-hoc basis or by teachers. **Teachers receive their training** through programs – basic and training for trainers - created by the governmental Centre for alternative resolution of conflicts (<https://centarzaars.me>) and accredited by the Bureau for Education Services for the in-service training of teachers ([Profesionalni razvoj – Zavod za školstvo Crne Gore](#)). The activity is implemented on a **need basis**, from 2 times per week to once a month.

The activity is currently assessed by the Bureau for Education Services through an **external assessment and quality assurance** based on school indicators. An **internal assessment** is also carried out, for example through schools' self-evaluations.

#### REFLECTIONS

Peer mediation provides students with the opportunity to **take responsibility** for their actions and **empowers them to cooperate** in finding solutions to problems. Moreover, it improves **communication** between students, and between students and teachers, while helping students develop skills such as **listening, critical thinking and problem solving**. Peer mediation has been shown to be more effective for resolution of conflicts than measures taken by head teachers or school management.