



FOSTERING A DEMOCRATIC SCHOOL CULTURE IN MONTENEGRO

Report

INCLUSIVE DAY CELEBRATION

11 OCTOBER 2017

MONTENEGRO

Horizontal Facility for Western Balkans and Turkey

Funded
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<http://horizontal-facility-eu.coe.int>

Background

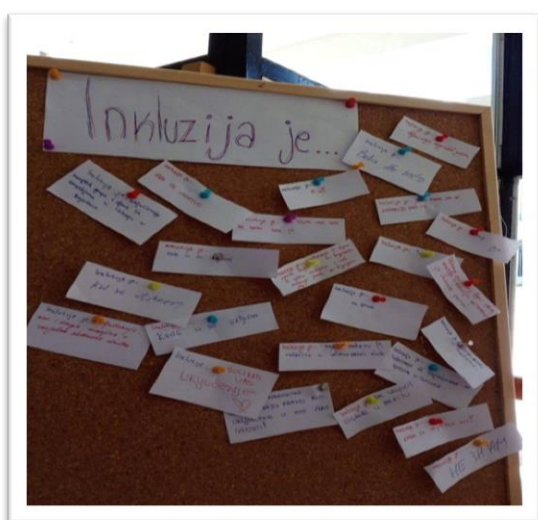
The overall objective of the HF Action “Fostering a democratic school culture” in Montenegro is to improve quality of education by fostering a democratic culture in the formal education system through applying anti-discriminatory approaches based on Council of Europe standards and practices. The specific objectives *inter alia* include enhancing “knowledge and awareness on the concept, policies, practices and benefits from inclusive education and a democratic school culture among teachers, staff, students and local communities”. The desired result is that “practices promoting inclusive education and democratic school culture are supported by awareness-raising events called “Inclusive days”.

On the initiative of the Action, the Ministry of Education decided to establish an official “INCLUSIVE DAY” which will be celebrated in Montenegrin schools every 11 October.

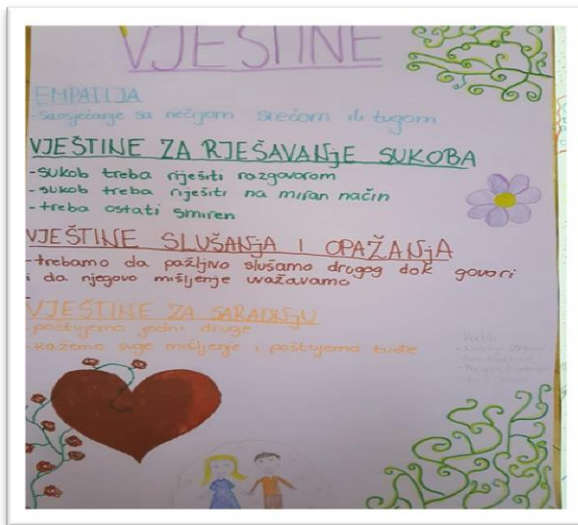
This year, “Inclusive day” is celebrated throughout the network of 26 pilot schools that has been created for the purpose of the Action implementation. This network gathers both primary and secondary schools and is divided into four groups of schools from the southern, central and northern regions of the country plus one cluster of vocational schools. In addition, some of out-of-network schools decided to join the celebration. Pupils and teachers invested a huge amount of time and effort in promoting the values and richness that inclusion brings, and how important it is to be open and accept differences.

SOUTHERN REGION CLUSTER OF PILOT SCHOOLS

Activities at schools on the occasion of Inclusion day started with the familiarisation with the word *INCLUSION* - *What is Inclusion*, round table on inclusion, workshops for students, etc. In the **secondary school “Ivan Goran Kovacic” from Herceg Novi**, members of the *Volunteers Club* introduced students with activities of their Club that develops inclusiveness, and they asked students and teachers questions about WHAT IS INCLUSION? Their answers were displayed in the school hall so that each student could further inform, read or add his / her answer. In the name of inclusion, pupils held supplementary/additional classes with their peers.



At the **elementary school “Orjenski bataljon” Bijela**, activities were also organised to contribute to raising awareness among all students at school during class. The importance and benefits of inclusive education and democratic culture were discussed and students in the workshop were introduced to Competences for Democratic Culture. Students were encouraged to identify competences that they would like to develop in life and that are important for inclusive education. Students also gave opinions on things they like and dislike at school and gave suggestions of the things they would like to have that would make school more inclusive for all. <http://www.radiohercegnovi.net/os-orjenski-bataljon-pilot-skola-za-projekat-savjeta-evrope/>



Secondary school “Mladost” from Tivat held a workshop named “*Wealth of Diversity*”, where 1st grade students had the opportunity to get familiar with the importance of inclusive education. Students had watched the UNICEF short film “*Talking about possibilities*”, and after that they discussed with students about their impressions, thoughts, and the importance of giving every child the possibility to develop according to their needs. <http://radiotivat.com/obiljezen-dan-inkluzije-u-tivatskim-skolama/2017/10/>



Elementary school “Drago Milovic” from Tivat organised a workshop and the students had the opportunity to write positive messages to their friends and discuss the point of learning how to give positive messages and not judge friends and peers, and how to overcome prejudices and become

open to accept differences. They created presentation posters with the messages which were then exhibited in the school hall. Participants at the workshop received a gift at the end, the school publication magazine “*Korac*” and accepting differences was the theme of this issue.

CENTRAL REGION CLUSTER OF PILOT SCHOOLS

Gymnasium: "25. maj" from Tuzi, Podgorica marked the "Inclusion day" by holding a *public class* for students from 1st and 2nd grade, for teachers, and for the representatives of parents and the local community. Various events took place, namely presentations, the playing of a film, and the exchange of experiences through the workshop "*Importance of Inclusion*". During the day, pupil, Antoneta Gjokaj, declared: "*We should accept every individual open-hearted for what he/she is and we should never judge for what he/she isn't*"



Workshops on the same topic took place in **Gymnasium "Cetinje" from Cetinje** which aimed at helping pupils understand guidelines on how to develop safe, stimulating school environment which fosters relationship of acceptance and tolerance. All these values will become a part of the school curricula as of the next school year.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1430697857026337&id=874110349351760



In the leading (mentor) school for central region **Gymnasium "Slobodan Škerović"** in Podgorica, a workshop *"Empathy as an important democratic competence"* was organised by the Psychological section. The workshop aimed at promoting a number of values of inclusion both on personal and the school level.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1141474232652794&id=283288491804710



Gymnasium "Stojan Cerović" in Nikšić organized a full day activity *"Our messages to support to diversity"* whereas in the English classes the debate: *"Inclusion – the value of our attitudes"* took place. All day long, high school pupils from Niksic were invited to cover the board in the school hall with messages reflecting the need for better understanding and acceptance of wide range of diversities.



The celebration in two schools from the central region took the form of the visits to organisations that are mostly dealing with the persons with disabilities. Hence, the pupils of **Gymnasium "Petar I Petrovic - Njegos" from Danilovgrad** visited association of parents, an NGO *"Lets grow together"*. Children and adolescents were happy to watch the play *"On silence and other imitation of happiness"* and the short musical performance accompanied by the message *"Prejudices can be reduced with greater engagement of young people - this is our example"*.
<https://gimnazijadg.wordpress.com/2017/10/11/obiljezen-dan-inkluzije/>;
<https://www.facebook.com/gimdanilovgrad/posts/1723687137937343/>



In contrast, at the **primary school "Bozidar Vuković - Podgoričanin"** pupils received a visit from *Resource Center for Children and Youth "Podgorica"*¹, and after jointly participating in the entertainment programme for pupils of junior grades, the senior pupils had the opportunity to learn about the basics of the Braille alphabet from the Centre visitors.
https://www.facebook.com/pg/skolaboqidarvukovic.podgoricanin/photos/?tab=album&album_id=527815377551026



¹ The centre is responsible for continuing education and rehabilitation of children and adolescents with disabilities.

Although the school is not direct Beneficiary of the Action, members of the Student Parliament of the elementary school: **"Savo Pejanović" from Podgorica**, supported by the school's pedagogical-psychological service, conducted a full-day experiment intended to test to what extent pupils, teachers, and parents are familiar with the notion of *democratic and inclusion values* after attending the workshop *"Diversities are bringing us closer"*. The answers to the survey were satisfactory. One of the parents declared *"No one should be excluded; we are all the same while diversities are making us closer. As a parent, I wouldn't feel comfortable with rejection of my kid; other kids could help him to fit into society and school activities"*.

<https://www.facebook.com/ossavopejanovic/posts/821024744734023>



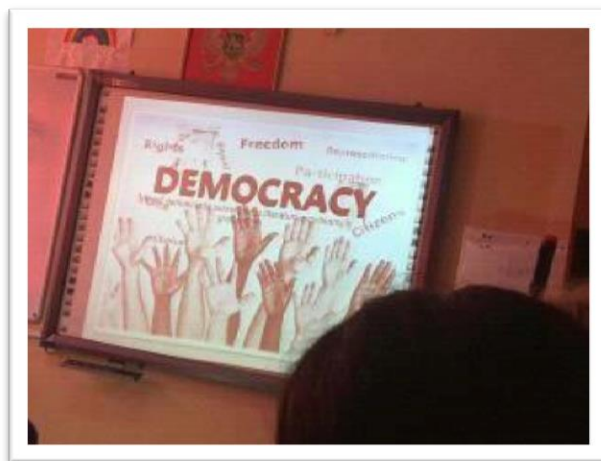
Primary school **"Mileva Lajovic-Lalatovic"** from Nikšić also recognised the importance of celebrating this day. A group of junior pupils, supported by the school principal and the pedagogist, designed a poster *"Respect rights of a child/everyone"*. After posting the poster in the school hall, the group endeavored to reach as many pupils as possible to promote this day.

https://www.facebook.com/mlalatovic/?hc_ref=ARS5ca0gaDnAunyNJf4qgBcey0FkeZA7BeghtRv7udDI_dAjK6ZVd4fhO0NyuQzk6M&fref=nf

NORTHERN REGION CLUSTER OF PILOT SCHOOLS

Around 300 students from **Gymnasium "30. septembar"** and **Primary school "Mustafa Pećanin"** celebrated inclusive day by promoting and participating in several different events which were dedicated to valuing human dignity and human rights democracy and justice. The programme of the event started with the film *"Towards a healthy society"*, and continued with the interactive presentation *"Point of views: Inclusion in democracy"* and discussions between students, teachers, professional associates, parents and representatives of the local community. In particular, they discussed obstacles to inclusive education and the development of inclusive and democratic schools as well as measures that need to be taken in order to cater for the needs of all students.

<http://www.pobjeda.net/protected/listalica/2017-10-13/#13> <http://www.dan.co.me/nivo=3&rubrika=Regioni&clanak=618993&datum=2017-10-15>



"Colours of tolerance" was the exhibition that took place in the yard of **primary school "Mustafa Pećanin"**.

The main aim of the event was to promote democratic culture and social inclusion to the wider public also and to raise awareness of young people to accept differences as opportunities rather than obstacles.

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1929930517325318&id=1516988631952844&local_e2=sr RS& tn =%2As%2As-R



The Inclusive team from the **Gymnasium “Panto Mališić”** organised a panel discussion related to the improvement of communication as an important element of democratic culture. The event consisted of simulations of different aspects of unclear communication followed by discussions. At the very end, research undertaken in school on communication obstacles and habits was presented. It was also followed by discussion from students showing different points of view and exploring different attitudes towards most “common” communication styles in school communities. Representatives of media and the local community took part together with students, professors, the principal of the school, and the Action’s local coordinator. <https://www.facebook.com/gimberane>



The main aim of the event organised in **primary school “Radomir Mitrovic”** was to promote support to vulnerable and marginalised groups in the Berane community as well as to strengthen anti-discriminatory approach to children coming from the Roma community. After programmes which consisted of recitals, singing, acting and play, participants were able to visit an art exhibition named “Culture and tradition of our country”. <https://www.facebook.com/JU-O%C5%A0-Radomir-Mitrovi%C4%87-893821440717134/>



In gymnasium "Tanasije Pejatovic" a radio programme was organised to inform the public about the HF Action "Fostering a democratic school culture" and the activity of the school organised in cooperation with the local community and other schools in the town on the promotion of civic mindedness through a joint action "A day without cars". <https://www.facebook.com/Gimnazija-Tanasije-Pejatovi%C4%87-Pljevlja-720500734752883/>



https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=13&v=sUg8BV10fnw

Secondary school "17. septembar" celebrated 11th of October, Inclusive day by organising the activity of planting flowers in school to make it a more comfortable place for work and studying. The action was called „LET'S PLANT FLOWERS TO MAKE SCHOOL BLOOM“. <https://www.facebook.com/JU-Srednja-mje%C5%A1ovita-%C5%A1kola17septembar-%C5%BDabljak-1715144478699078>



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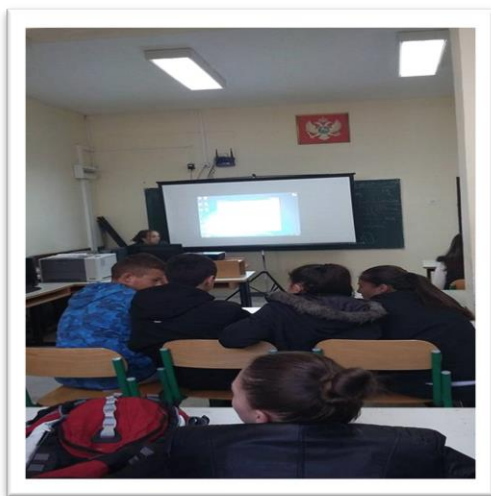
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CLUSTER OF VOCATIONAL PILOT SCHOOLS

Cluster of vocational pilot school was also very active and creative in celebrating „Inclusive day“. Secondary schools „Braca Selic“ from Kolasin, „Vuksan Djukic“ from Mojkovac, „Beco Basic“ from Plav, Education Centre from Pluzine, and the vocational school from Andrijevica organized a wide-range of activities.

ANDRIJEVICA



The purpose of this year school celebration was promoting inclusion in their own municipality, together with their partners and those from the local community.



MOJKOVAC

Most of the activities organised by the schools were lectures by teachers in the classes, as well as discussions with students, on the importance and fostering inclusive education. All schools

organised additionally different events, such as: exhibitions, theatrical performances, different dance acts, etc... Schools also involved children with disabilities attending local institutions which are supporting them in their development.

At the **secondary Mixed School “Beco Basic” from Plav**, students, together with their parents and members of the daily centre for children with disabilities “Lipa”, organized craft exhibition of greeting cards and the basketball game in association with local basketball club “Balkanski ris”.



PLAV

The central celebration took place in the **Education Centre from Pluzine**. The first class in the school was dedicated to the celebration of the “Inclusion day” where the teachers lectured about inclusive education. Also, essays “*The sun shines for all*” and “*Diversities in society and how they are addressed in our school*” were read. An art exhibition followed featuring works of art by pupils. Finally, students of pre-school, primary, and secondary level of education performed on stage. The school principal opened this part of the celebration. There followed choral singing, music, dance, skits and presented a true celebrations. School teachers and pupils took great effort and ensured that spectators enjoy every minute.

Head of Operations in the Council of Europe Programme Office in Podgorica with her associates were guests at the celebration. https://www.facebook.com/pg/JU-Obrazovni-centar-Pluzine-446115882238608/photos/?tab=album&album_id=727757984074395



PLUŽINE