

**Project** BGLD-1.003-0004 Vratsa Youth Center - a factor for the development of the Northwest

**Project promoter:** Municipality of Vratsa

**Partner:** Timis Country Youth Foundation, Romania

**Budget:** 811,675.00 euro (1,587,473.97 BGN)

**Start of the implementation:** July 1st, 2020

**Duration of project implementation:** 36 months

**Project description:** The project objective is to expand the territorial scope of the Youth Center Vratsa (MC Vratsa), continue and develop existing activities and conduct new ones to increase the diversity, interest and number of young people involved in the activities, introduce services for children and young people at risk that meet the highest standards of youth work. The main activities of the project are aimed at improving the conditions for equal access to education, training and work; increasing the motivation for inclusion of children and parents from ethnic minorities, creating preconditions for social inclusion; integration activities for children and young people by organizing joint initiatives and changing public attitudes towards greater tolerance. The activities will be tailored to the identified needs of young people and community members, including those from vulnerable groups. The main target group is youth between the age of 15 and 29; pupils at risk of dropping out or who have already dropped out of the education system; young people at risk from ethnic minorities; young people at risk living in small and remote settlements or in economically less developed areas; people who are not included in the youth group related to the participation of young people in the Youth Center activities, including children, parents, teachers, mentors and other representatives of the local community.

The specific objectives of the project include improved conditions and environment for equal access to education, training and employment; increase the motivation for inclusion of children and parents from ethnic minorities; integration activities for children and youth by organizing joint initiatives and changing public attitudes towards greater tolerance for young people at risk; motivation for continuing education; soft skills training; promoting non-formal learning and vocational training of young people; increase the diversity of activities and increase the number of young people and people outside the youth group including those from the vulnerable groups involved in the activities; stimulate the activities and initiatives organized by young people; change public attitudes towards greater tolerance for young people at risk;

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develop volunteering among young people as the basis for social cohesion, solidarity and formation of civic consciousness; develop cooperation between Youth Center Vratsa, youth organizations and institutions to ensure the successful inclusion of youth at risk in society life; create a partner network in the region settlements the for joint integration activities for youth at risk; provide opportunities for exchange of experience with organizations from donor countries and European partners and participation in joint campaigns, initiatives and trainings of the National Network of Youth Centers.