



On September 29th 2020 from 09:30 a.m. in the building of the Youth Center - Vratsa was held a starting press conference, which launched the activities for the implementation of Project BGLD-1.003-0004 "Vratsa Youth Center - a factor for the development of the Northwest", funded by the Programme under the programme "Local Development, Poverty Reduction and Enhanced Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups", with the financial support of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway under the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area 2014 – 2021.

The event was attended by the Mayor of Vratsa - Kalin Kamenov, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, RME-Vratsa, municipal councilors Momchil Kalistratov and Rumen Petkov, experts from the municipalities of Mezdra, Roman, Krivodol, Hayredin and Mizia, as well as representatives from a local media. The initiated project is planned for a period of 36 months with an approved grant in the amount of BGN 1,587,473.97 and covers the target group of young people between the age of 15 to 29, including representatives of the vulnerable groups. The partner organization is Romania - FITT (Timis County Youth Foundation) - ENYC from Romania.

Some of the activities included in the project are:

- ✚ Study of the current interests and needs of young people living in small and remote settlements or in economically less developed areas;

- ✚ Organizing motivational talks and preventive information campaigns aimed at motivating for further education and achieving the set goals, ability to plan personal finances and other useful topics for young people in the field;
- ✚ Conducting non formal trainings, building and developing soft skills of the young people from the target group in connection with their future social and labor realization, including with a guest lecturer from the partner organization from Romania;
- ✚ Implementation of planned 40 youth projects in areas such as sports, ecology, culture, establishment and development of youth spaces and video art, for which young people will be able to apply, and for the approved projects will be provided the necessary assistance;
- ✚ Organizing forums for consultation and guidance in finding and finding a suitable job in partnership with the Labor Office Directorate and conducting vocational retraining courses;
- ✚ Conducting training activities and youth exchange with the partner organization from Romania - FITT (Timis County Youth Foundation) - ENYC;
- ✚ Establishment of youth interest clubs, in which activities for additional informal training and many other attractive activities will be carried out;
- ✚ Construction of an additional multifunctional building of the Youth Center - Vratsa with a stage and social café, which will provide new opportunities for conducting activities unique to our region in accordance with the interests and needs of young people in the city.
- ✚ In addition to the young people from the Municipality of Vratsa, the municipalities of Borovan, Byala Slatina, Kozloduy, Krivodol, Mezdra, Mizia, Oryahovo, Roman and Hayredin will be in the focus of the activities planned under the new programming period.