

Training for **new opportunities** – a chance for everyone

The enlargement process is designed to widen opportunities, and an EU project in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is demonstrating how people of very different backgrounds can get a second chance through lifelong learning, in particular through adult education.

ANOTHER CHANCE TO LEARN

In villages and towns around the country, classes have been given to illiterate and unemployed youngsters and adults, particularly women. Educational pilot programmes were developed focusing on such basic skills as literacy and numeracy, and vocational education and training to improve employment prospects. Half the programmes were designed particularly for people who are socially excluded – vulnerable groups, individuals who left school early, young offenders, single mothers from Roma communities or long term unemployed – with a focus on literacy and personal fulfilment. The other programmes offered vocational skills, including care assistants for the elderly, plumbers, construction workers and technicians. In a dozen pilot projects, thirty experts from France and Spain have been working with local civil servants, teachers, civil society organisations and companies.

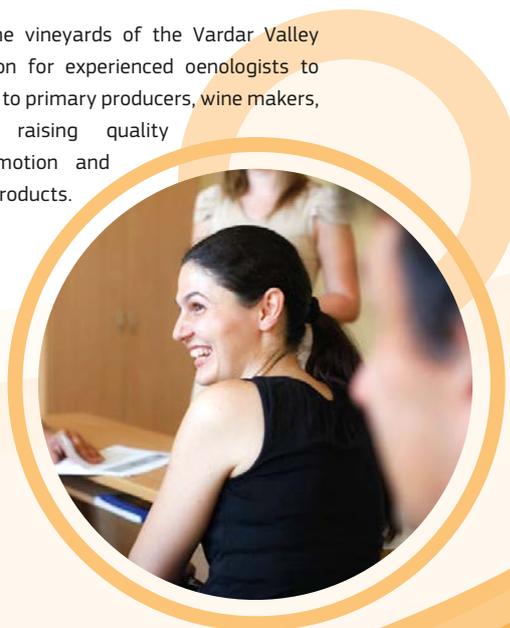
PROBLEM SOLVING IN THE TEXTILE SECTOR

In the town of Štip, where textiles are an important activity, local skills were lacking to maintain and repair sewing machines, so an educational programme was organised to equip trainees to fill the gap, and to become trainers for future students. The programme was validated by the state employment agency and chambers of commerce and craft, and certificates were awarded by a jury representing companies, local authorities and educational institutions.

WIDE OPPORTUNITIES

In Tetovo, a programme for training in plumbing was given to people who had been working without any formal qualifications. They are now certified for the installation of sanitary equipment in any building. In Skopje, a programme qualified construction workers for the renovation of local houses using traditional materials and techniques – not only preserving national heritage but also improving housing conditions and offering employment opportunities.

A course among the vineyards of the Vardar Valley provided certification for experienced oenologists to provide consultancy to primary producers, wine makers, and distributors, raising quality and boosting promotion and marketing of local products.



And a training programme for home assistance has widened the availability of skilled non-institutional care for elderly persons, introducing quality assurance standards and procedures into the profession. According to Meri Terzieva of Humanost, an organisation caring for

the elderly, and a beneficiary of the project, “We trained 10 people. Two are now employed in a private nursing home, six are working as home-care assistants. And the clients feel safer with assistants who are trained, and are even willing to pay more than for untrained helpers.”

PROJECT DETAILS –

Strengthening the capacities of the Skopje Centre for Adult Education and developing adult-education and literacy programmes, along with fulfilment of elementary education for excluded persons

Partners:

Centre for Adult Education

Total cost in €:

1.7 million

EU Contribution in €:

1.5 million (88%)

Start date:

October 2011

End date:

July 2013

Results:

Strengthened capacity of the Centre for Adult Education in implementing its mandate; development and test of pilot programmes for literacy and fulfilment of elementary education for adult with a special attention to excluded persons

Techniques:

Building and strengthening the national institutional capacity through peer-to-peer approach using mainly: training, workshops, on job training, study visits, advice and coaching

Project website:

www.cov.gov.mk

