



---

***Ministry of Education and Science  
The Republic of Macedonia***

***Preventing Early School Leaving and Students' Dropout***

**Main initiatives**

***11-12 December 2013  
Belgrade, Serbia***

---



**Current situation**

- Data collection/evidence based
  - Strategies/needs for comprehensive strategy to tackle early school leaving
  - Reforms in the education and training system/VET
  - Measures/common and targeted
  - Next steps
-



**The Republic of Macedonia  
Ministry of Education and Science**

---

- There is no comprehensive Strategy for reducing early school leaving but there are many strategy documents concerning ESL:
  - VET Strategy in the context of LLL with Action plan 2013-2020; chapter VET in the function of strengthening social inclusion and social cohesion
  - Strategy for Integrated Education
  - National Action Plan for Education within the Decade of Roma inclusion
  - National Strategy for Reduction of Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010-2020
-



## The Republic of Macedonia Ministry of Education and Science

---

### □ Current situation

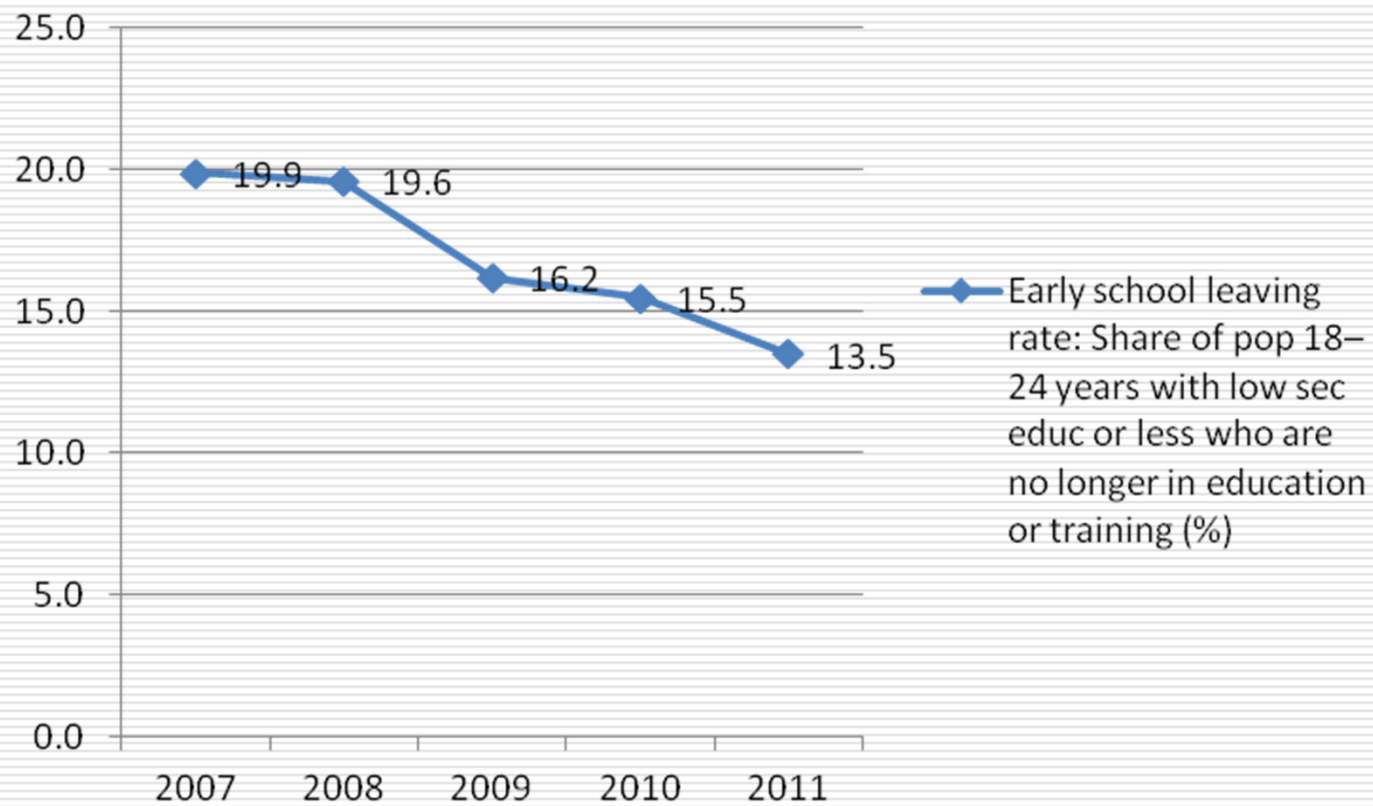
- The country continued to improve its performance in the areas where EU level benchmarks were set for 2012. In 2012 the country performed better than the EU average as regards early school leaving, and reduced the gap with EU in other areas as adult participation in LLL and tertiary educational attainment.
- Early school leavers: Share of population aged 18-24 with at most lower secondary education and not in further education and training 2012 – 11,7%

(Source:2013 Progress Report )

---



## The Republic of Macedonia Ministry of Education and Science



---

## Data collection

- Ministry of Education and Science / EMIS –data is collected for administrative purpose
  - State Statistical Office-Labour Force Survey
  - Directorate for Development and Promotion of Education in Languages of the Members of Communities-providing data according ethnicity
  - Systems do not provide data about entry into the labour market
  - Different methods of collection, limited use of the existing data and information for policy development and monitoring ESL
-



---

## Surveys

To complement the information on ESL or dropouts, the country conducted surveys and studies:

- Conditional cash transfers-MLSP-study of school drops

### Estimated causes

- Socioeconomic background
  - School readiness
  - Learning disabilities
  - School curricula
  - Lack of systemic prevention tools
  - Insufficient assistance for students
-



---

## Surveys - ETF regional project

- Mapping of VET policies and practices in VET for social inclusion and social cohesion in WB countries, Israel and Turkey
  - One of the chapters: mapping the extent of dropouts from vocational education and assessing the influence on social inclusion; integrate pupils from different backgrounds, especially those from the most vulnerable groups into the labour market and society.
-



---

## Surveys

### EC report- 2013

- Teacher Education and Training in The Western Balkans
  - Particular attention to be paid on teacher pre - service and in - service education and training.
  - Training of teachers on ESL and risk factors in initial and continuous education and training
  - The role of school leadership and schools
-



## The Republic of Macedonia Ministry of Education and Science

---

- The main focus in Macedonia is on prevention and intervention
  - Quality of education
  - Financial support
    - free textbooks, organized free transportation, additional classes in schools for students with lower grades, extended the stay in school
    - Grants to students
    - Free of charge accommodation for pupils in dormitories
    - Cash transfers
-



**The Republic of Macedonia  
Ministry of Education and Science**

---

- Parents counselling
  - Counselling for students
  - Counselling and guidance
  - Teacher training
  - Employment of psychologists in the schools
  - Specific targeted measures addressing Roma and other minorities
-



---

## Policies and affirmative actions in the educational system for the members of the communities

- Vlachs, Bosnians and Roma community in primary schools, receive education in their mother tongue through the elective subject “Language and Culture of the Communities” which starts from 3th grade primary education;
  - At university level - elective subject ‘Roma History and Culture’ and Vlach language as an elective subject in one of the Pedagogical Faculty in Stip.
-



**The Republic of Macedonia  
Ministry of Education and Science**

---

## Policies and affirmative actions in the educational system for the members of the communities

- ❑ Project for school mediators for Roma in primary education – intents in near future to become public policy by the Government;
  - ❑ Manual for antidiscrimination policies in primary and secondary education;
  - ❑ Project for scholarship, mentorship and tutorship in high school;
-



The Republic of Macedonia  
Ministry of Education and Science

---

## Strategy for Integrated Education

- Promotion of integration through joint activities;
  - Integration through language acquisition;
  - Curricula and textbooks;
  - Teachers qualifications;
  - School management in the context of decentralization.
-



---

## Vocational Education and Training (VET)

- VET Strategy
  - reform in 3 years VET
  - career guidance system (YES-Youth Employability Skills-Network)
  - Quality of practical training-in the companies
  - Training of mentors in the companies
  - Work based learning
  - Promotion of VET
-



## **□ YES Project 2010-2015**

-USAID & MoES -Memorandum of Understanding

Aim: To improve employability skills of youth

### Activities:

- Strengthening career guidance and counseling for students in 7 municipalities;
  - Equipping and opening Career Centers in secondary schools;
  - Development of Programme for training and certification of Career Counselors (MES,BRO,VET Centre).
-



---

## Challenges:

- Increasing knowledge on ESL-DROP OUTS
  - Pre-primary education;
  - Integrated data available on national, local and school level;
  - Schools, teachers, school leadership
  - Counseling and guidance in primary education (9<sup>th</sup> year of education, secondary education, young people outside the system);
  - Implementation of VET Strategy (flexibility, apprenticeship, internship, mobility of students and teachers)
-



**The Republic of Macedonia  
Ministry of Education and Science**

---

**Next steps:**

- Quality of education and training, innovative approach
  - Participation in the activities under Western Balkan Platform on education and training
  - EU 2020
-



**The Republic of Macedonia  
Ministry of Education and Science**

---

**THANK YOU!**

Ministry of Education and Science  
E-mail: [nada.stoimenova@mon.gov.mk](mailto:nada.stoimenova@mon.gov.mk)  
[www.mon.gov.mk](http://www.mon.gov.mk)

---