



Co-funded by
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BELI Balkan Emerging
Leaders Initiative



1. What is the objective of the BELI project and how will it impact the school?

The objective of the BELI project is to strengthen youth participation in decision-making processes and to enhance democratic culture in schools and local communities. The project impacts schools by strengthening the role of student councils, encouraging active student participation, and developing skills related to representation, democracy, and human rights. Schools will have the opportunity to implement student-led initiatives with mentoring support, contributing to a more active and inclusive school environment.

2. Which schools are eligible to apply and how many schools will be selected? Can non-bilingual schools apply?

All public secondary schools in North Macedonia are eligible to apply, regardless of whether they are monolingual or multilingual. Of all submitted applications, eight schools will be selected to participate in the project. The application focuses on the functioning and potential of the student council, as well as the school's readiness to support it.

3. What support will the selected schools receive?

Selected schools will receive comprehensive support including:

- a capacity-building programme for student council members (both in-person and online),
- mentoring support for planning and implementing student initiatives,
- support from MCEC in materials and services needed to implement the initiative,
- participation in two Regional Network of Young Leaders events and a final conference.

This support aims to enable the practical application of knowledge and active student engagement.

4. Will mentors be paid? Will travel costs be covered for mentors?

The project does not allow payment of per diems for teachers. However, all costs related to participation in Regional Network of Young Leaders events in Skopje and Prishtina, as well as the final event in Belgrade, including travel costs, will be covered by the BELI project.

5. What is the role of the student council in the project and why is it important?

The student council is the key element of the project, as it is considered the first institutional mechanism through which students engage in democratic processes during their education. Through the project, the competencies of the student council will be strengthened in representation, advocacy, and initiating activities. Schools will implement practical initiatives led by students, thereby increasing their responsibility and active role within the school and the wider community.

6. How will schools be selected?

The key selection conditions include:

- existence of an active student council,
- motivation to enhance youth participation,
- inclusion of students from vulnerable and marginalized groups,
- experience in projects related to democracy and civic education,
- established cooperation with local partners.

These criteria ensure that selected schools have the capacity and readiness for successful participation.

7. How is the application completed and what information must be provided?

The application is submitted through an online form using the following [link](#) and includes several sections:

- basic information about the school (contact details, type, social media),
- data about students (total number and percentage from vulnerable groups),
- information about the student council (composition, activities, role in decision-making),
- motivation and readiness to participate,
- inclusion and participation (challenges and support measures),
- project experience,
- cooperation with local partners,
- additional comments and documentation.

The form requires clear and concrete information reflecting the school's actual situation and capacity.

8. How is the inclusion of students from vulnerable and marginalized groups assessed?

Inclusion is one of the key criteria and is assessed through:

- the percentage of students from vulnerable and marginalized groups,
- their involvement in the student council,
- specific support measures (accessibility, mentoring, language support),
- examples of activities involving students from diverse backgrounds.

This demonstrates how actively the school promotes equal opportunities and participation for all students.

9. What experience should the school have?

The project aims to build the capacities of schools. In the application, the school presents its previous experience in implementing activities or projects related to democracy, human rights, civic education, or youth participation. This experience demonstrates the school's ability to implement activities and involve students in learning and participation processes beyond regular classes.

10. What kind of cooperation with local partners is expected from the school?

Schools are expected to demonstrate cooperation with local partners such as municipalities, civil society organizations, and youth bodies. The application should describe existing cooperation and successful examples, as well as indicate whether the school is familiar with local youth policies (e.g., a Local Youth Action Plan). This cooperation is important for linking the school with the community and increasing the impact of student initiatives.

11. What are the application deadlines and can a school submit more than one application?

Applications can be submitted at any time within the defined application period (from 23 March to 23 April 2026). Each school is allowed to submit only one application. This rule ensures equal conditions for all applicants.

12. Are schools expected to actively participate in project monitoring and evaluation?

Yes, schools are expected to demonstrate readiness to actively participate in monitoring and evaluation of project activities. Within the application, the school should show its willingness to monitor and contribute to the evaluation process, including tracking the progress of initiatives and participating in activities related to assessing results. This is an important part of the project as it ensures quality implementation and visibility of achieved results.

13. Due to previously scheduled activities, representatives from our school were unable to attend the info session. Is this a problem for applying to the call?

No, participation in the info session is not a prerequisite for applying. It is only an additional opportunity for schools to learn about the call, the application process, planned activities, and to ask additional questions. Schools can submit their application at any time within the application period.
