PROJECT FACTSHEET

Funded by the European Union

Women taking the lead in local communities



Duration: 01.05.2024 - 30.04.2027

Countries:
North Macedonia

EU contribution: € 346 500

Total budget: € 385 000

Implementer:
The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, Association for advancement of gender equality Akcija Zdruzenska and Humanitarian Association “Majka”

Website(s): zdruzenska.org.mk/en/women-taking-the-lead-in-local-communities/

Social media:
instagram.com/akcijazdruzenska?igsh=MXgxZmt4Mm1zNzduNw%3D%3D, facebook.com/zdruzenska, linkedin.com/authwall?trk=gf&trkInfo=AQFpeLiDUBZ88AAAAZ4ckS2onKQ9KRHnHOQcF1oeS4tMXAnshoE9j24ItYmV7PLXHzon0Y-4T8YUhtu63DL-SOGLn0hs_sI1YZZJx3osqbcMHfUOZ7gEyGkFCt6ZJdOmImzqSSo=&original_referer=https://zdruzenska.org.mk/&sessionRedirect=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.linkedin.com%2Fin%2Fakcija-zdruzenska-9045b0354%2F, youtube.com/@akcijazdruzenska8699

Project description:

The “Women Taking the Lead in Local Communities” project aims to strengthen gender equality and democratic participation by empowering women to actively engage in decision-making processes and community development across North Macedonia. The initiative supports female-led civil society organisations (WCSOs) and female community leaders in becoming stronger advocates for equal rights, social inclusion, and gender-responsive policies at local and national levels.

Through capacity building, networking, mentoring, and sub-granting support, the project helps women-led organisations and grassroots groups strengthen their advocacy work and increase their participation in public life. Particular attention is given to women from rural areas and marginalised communities, recognising their importance in promoting inclusive and sustainable local development.

The project also works to improve women’s access to policy dialogue and public advocacy opportunities by strengthening cooperation with local authorities, gender equality mechanisms, and community stakeholders. Through awareness-raising activities and evidence-based advocacy, the initiative promotes gender equality and combats discrimination against women in line with EU-related reforms and democratic values.

Expected results:
By supporting stronger local women’s networks and leadership, the project contributes to a more inclusive, participatory, and gender-equal society.

- Improved capacities, resources, and outreach for community-based advocacy and empowerment activities of female-led organisations working in multiple municipalities.
- Marginalised women, particularly from rural and underserved areas, become more informed about local governance, budgeting, and participation opportunities.
- Expanded and strengthened local women’s networks and community support groups across participating municipalities.
- Female community leaders improve their advocacy and leadership skills and play a more active role in connecting local institutions with women’s communities.
- Increased participation of women in public advocacy actions, consultations, and local policy-related processes contributes to stronger gender-responsive governance.