

Report, Local TC's

During 22 - 26.09.2021, in Shtip, North Macedonia, Minority Leaders for Society – MLS hosted local training course for Human Rights. The training course was organised within STEPS4Lead project financed by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

The 5 day training, aimed to equip local citizens with information about human rights. The training each day tackled different aspects, such as:

1. human rights and historical aspect of it, why do we need human rights nowadays, how much are human rights respected in our country and what kind of work does the obdusman do
2. active citizenship
3. gender equality and
4. sustainable development



All of the topics were linked with the national and local reality. Most important is that this training course enabled participants to discuss about activism and understand why do we need local activism and therefor active citizens on local level. We discussed about the problems we are facing in our country, problems on local level and how we as citizens can act on them. We used also real problems participants and the local community faces and proposed solutions on how we as individuals or group of citizens can act and help.

When it comes to gender equality, we also tackled equal payment in Shtip and problems the female workers are facing in the textile factories. Gender based violence and domestic violence was also an important aspect, as there has been incised reports on reported cases, while we know that even more are in the darkenes.

The last but not least, was sustainable development, where we discussed about the use of plastic, recycling in the city and the region, increased air polution during last winter in Shtip (reasons) and how to act on it and where to report it. This day took an interesting course, as many participants expressed their interest for solar panel installation, in both their homes and work. We discussed about the need to educate youngsters more in schools about protection of the environment and organizing more local cleaning actions, as a way to show to the other locals that each of us can take care more about the place where we live, and therefor taking more care about our planet.

As outcome from the training course, in order to tackle 2 important aspects we as group found important, we agreed to organize recycling/donating campaing. Team of several people from the training took the responsability to be in charge of the local campaign and to manage it.

The evaluation from the training was satisfactory, as people were happy that we have created space to learn and also to share their local problems, that we gave them information and also tools on how to act and react. They expressed their interest to participate on such events on local level on regular level, especially with the local government, where they can also share problems linked with the local adiminstration.

