

DESCRIPTIVE REPORT FOR 2021



First Children's Embassy in the World - Megjashi – Republic of Macedonia

Final Annual Report for 2021 Implemented Activities

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1. DIRECT SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

- SOS Helpline for children and youth 070 390 632; 02 2465-316
- Materials and resources for supporting socially disadvantaged families

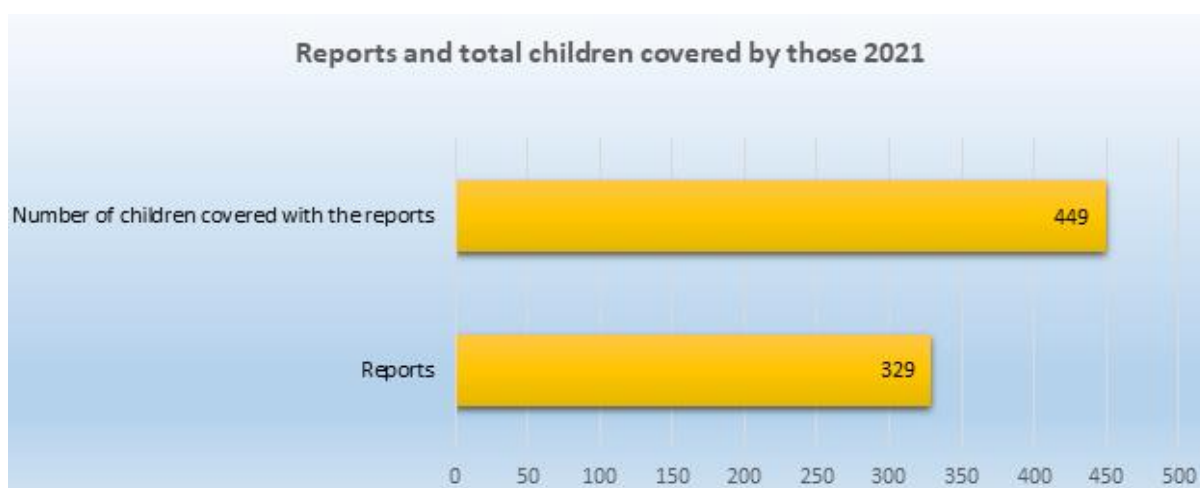
1.1 SOS Helpline for Children and Youth 070 390 632: 02 2465-316

Duration: since 1993, continuously

Summary of the findings from the work of the SOS Helpline in 2021

During 2021, as of 20 December, a total of **329** cases were received, with additional **473** conversations that took place. The total number of children and young people covered by the cases is **449**. Compared to last year, the number of cases has increased by over 30%.

Graph 1: Number of cases and number of children included in those cases



In this twelve-month period, the communication with the callers was mostly realized through the administrative (landline) or mobile number of the Children's Embassy Megjashi. More precisely, **269** calls were received through one of these two telephone numbers. In this period, **23** notifications were received via e-mail, **30** notifications were received on the FB page, **5** notifications were received by mail and **2** notifications were submitted in person at Megjashi's premises.

The calls during the reporting year 2021 refer to problems in which 198 boys and 176 girls were affected, and the gender is unknown for 75 children.

According to the callers' living environment, most of the children (390) live in urban areas, 28 children live in rural areas and the living environment of 31 children is unknown.

In terms of ethnicity of the callers, as shown in the graph, 253 of the total number of callers are Macedonians, 20 are Roma and 14 callers are of Albanian ethnicity. Only 8 of the contacts (reports) are callers from other (ethnic groups) and the ethnicity is unknown for 34 people.

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The year of 2021 was a year in which SOS helpline was ringing quite often. This annual report notes the small number of children who contacted us during this year, therefore it is necessary to work on encouraging children and young people to call in order to be informed or to report violations of their rights.

We continued to work in a pandemic situation by diverting calls and avoiding any interruption in the provision of our services.

The number one issue in the *problems* category was the reporting of views of children of divorced parents and non-compliance to the resolution issued by the Center for Social Work. The data shows that the violation of the rights of the child during divorce procedure is one of the biggest problems children and their families face. This points out to the fact that better and more quality regulation of the family relations is needed, including better attention and support by the relevant institutions in order to prevent additional violations of children rights. There are also issues related to awarding of custodianship and payment of alimony. In addition to the right of the child to continue seeing one of the parents, we have also reports about violated children rights for seeing people from the wider family (grandmother, grandfather, aunt, uncle, cousins...).

Violence continues to remain a reality for the children in Macedonia. The data from the report show that many children are at risk of violence, which affects their optimal psycho-physical development. Corporal punishment still dominates as a way of raising children, unaware of the psychological consequences it leaves on the children for life.

Seemingly invisible to other forms of violence, emotional violence also occurs very often and is just as dangerous as any other form of violence. The spectrum of emotional abuse is wide, and this happens when the child is not taken care of, not encouraged to develop, when it is neglected, rejected, ignored, coerced, punished, prevented from connecting with other people around him/ her... Emotional abuse is also a situation when a child witnesses physical or other violence. This annual report also includes sexual abuse of children.

The life prospects of the children in Macedonia are affected by their exposure to poverty. Many children live with their families barely being able to sustain themselves and with serious endangerment of the children's rights. When we talk about essential needs we are talking about exposure to inadequate living conditions that hinder the optimal growth and development of children. Poverty also harms children through the negative impact on their families as the parents are not paying enough attention to their children since they are forced to work several jobs, hence the children are often pushed into begging and the likelihood of falling a victim to the most severe forms of abuse is increasing.

Maintaining mental health is equally important for both adults and children. Divorce proceedings and disagreements between the parents of the children are the most common cause of child anxiety and fear. Anxiety in children can also occur as a result of major changes in their lives, such as moving to a new home, living with only one parent, changing schools and so on.

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Activities implemented

In this 12-month period, most of the interventions that were undertaken were aimed at providing direct assistance or support to cases in which **85** children have been affected. In addition to direct assistance, recommendations were also provided for cases involving **197** children and young people, contact information of the relevant institution was provided in cases involving **115** children, followed by cases involving **74** children or young people who were referred to other organizations or institutions, while cases involving **109** children have been referred to law enforcement agencies/ institutions. Most often, the cases were referred to the following services and institutions depending on the problem for which they called:

- professional services in the school;
- agency (institution) for child protection in the country;
- various health professionals, general practitioners, psychologists/ psychiatrists; and
- referral to emergency services.

During the treatment and support of the children, the team of the SOS helpline often cooperated with the Centers for Social Work from Skopje and other cities, the Department of Interior, schools, the Association of Young Lawyers, the Coalition for Fair Trials and other stakeholders and organisations to provide better and more efficient support for the callers. During this year, the close and successful cooperation with the Center for Social Work in Skopje and their Intervention Team continued on a number of occasions. Reports (leads) regarding violence against children, inappropriate parental care, failure to act according to the issued resolution for seeing the parent after divorce - are some of the successful examples where, together with the Center, we managed to improve the exercising of the rights of a number of children.

The role of the volunteers in the operation of the helpline for children and youth

Volunteers have always been and continue to be a very important part of the operation of the SOS helpline. Every year new volunteers are recruited and they undergo continuous training on various topics.

This year the SOS team was joined by Mimoza Kostovska (professor), Marija Gjorgjioska (law student), Klementina Dobrevska (graduated psychologist), Aleksandar Mladenoski (student of special education and rehabilitation – defectologist), Barlet Beqiri (student of psychology), Marija Damovska (student of psychology) as active volunteers. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Association of Psychology Students "PSYHESCO" where 25 volunteers took an active part in the implementation of the Campaign for Children's Rights.

This team of volunteers prepared several blogs on trending topics for young people in order to get closer to this population. Some of the volunteers were also answering the calls during their duty in the afternoon on weekdays, as well as on weekends.

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Activities implemented to promote the Helpline for children and youth

In February 2021, the Annual report on the work of helpline for children and youth for 2021 was promoted at an online press conference. The Annual report is available at the following [link](#) in five languages: Macedonian(1-23 p.), Albanian (24-45 p.), Roma(46-67 p.), Turkish (68-88 p.) and English language(90-111 p.). The Report is also available only in Albanian language at the following [link](#), as well as only in English at this [link](#).

During the pandemic, aiming at promotion of the children's and youth's helpline and getting closer to children and youth, several activities were implemented targeting children and youth. The Children's Embassy Megjashi conducted a campaign in elementary schools in 2021 regarding children's rights that lasted from March to December. The aim of the campaign was to introduce children to their rights, how many of them actually know and understand what they really mean, including sharing of the SOS number for children and youth. The campaign was realised through online workshops on the Zoom platform with interactive participation of children by watching pictures and videos. The workshops were organised by volunteers on the SOS helpline for children and youth as well as volunteers from "Psyhesco". The same volunteers also got involved in writing texts that will be published on the newly created website "Alo Bushavko". The new website "Alo Bushavko" will provide additional communication channels with the children and youth and will also offer content that could interest the young population but also for the parents and teachers.

The actual operation and the detailed research on the attitudes of children and young people about the SOS helpline of Megjashi raised the need to introduce a new communication channel (learn more about the research at the following link: <http://www.childresembassy.org.mk/istrazuvanje-za-vebsajt.nspj>), which will provide greater availability and provide us with an opportunity to get even closer to the children. In the period September - December 2021, intensive work was carried out on the development of the website called "Alo Bushavko". It will be available to our customers starting from January 2022.

The helpline's volunteers within Arगतou's supported project, implemented 16 introductory workshops on children's rights in two Skopje's elementary schools - "Dimo Hadji Dimov" and "Jashar Bey Shkupi", encompassing 189 students. The workshops were held online during regular classes.

In August, when Macedonia was in a state of crisis with active fires that were ravaging nationwide, Megjashi, in cooperation with ZSP Psyhesco intensified the services for children and their families as well as other affected persons in the scorched areas who will be able to request psychological first aid using telephone numbers. Six (6) telephone numbers were active for 24 hours in a period of seven days.

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СОС линија за деца и млади
02 2465 316 070 390 632

ПСИХОЛОШКА ПРВА ПОМОШ (ППП)

ОПФАКА:

- Невинанзивна практична поддршка
- Утврдување на потреби и грижи
- Поддршка на деца, родители/старатели и други засегнати лица да дојдат до одредени информации и услуги
- Слушање, но без инсистирање детето / лицето да зборува
- Охрабрување и смирување
- Заштита од понатамошни проблеми

Достапни 24/7

076 781 350
075 745 640

070 393 668
075 225 082

ПСИХОЛОШКА ПРВА ПОМОШ (ППП)

Поддршка на деца, родители/старатели и други засегнати лица од пожарите

СОС линија за деца и млади

02 2465 316 070 390 632

075 745 640
076 781 350

075 225 082
070 393 668

1.2. Social and in-kind support to children and families at social risk

- Food donation – the food is provided through donations of companies who work in the food industry. The food is then donated to families.
- Provision of technological devices to children from families at social risk to enable them to be included in distance learning; provision of hygiene and food products
- Donation of protective equipment and protective masks to medical personall in few children’s hospitals/departments through provide financial support from several projects ran by Megjashi
- Clothing and footwear collection, selection and distribution to families
- Provision of educational and hygiene products supported by Arigotou network

The First Children’s Embassy in the World Megjashi continued to accept, select and distribute donated clothes from citizens in 2021, even in the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic under safe and controlled conditions, paying attention to the measures. A large number of citizens donate second hand clothes, shoes and other necessary preserved things, in the premises of Megjashi. Children and their parents, when they needed this kind of help, could come every working day between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. and pick up what they needed.

2. PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Name of the project/ programme: Peace Education Programme

Peace education, or education for PEACE, today, in a time of global crisis and uncertainty, is arising more and more interest. It promotes knowledge, skills and attitudes that can help people transform conflicts in a peaceful way, build fairer societies, and create conditions for positive peace in the environments in which they live.

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Peace education is value based. The key values of peace education, such as non-violence and social justice, are the basis for the desired social change for the respect of human rights and for building trust.

Objective: The project aims to promote peace and non-violence as basic values in the educational system to indicate the need for a more intensive integration of peace education (PE) in the teaching curricula.

Target group: the project was first implemented in 3 secondary schools in Skopje: gymnasium: "Nikola Karev", SCGSS "Zdravko Cvetkovski" and SMSCS "Dr. Pance Karagjozov". During 2013 - 2021, we expanded this program to new high schools in/outside Skopje, in Vinica SMS "Vancho Prke", Skopje SSCS "Vlado Tasevski", SSCS "Arseni Jovkov" and SSCSG "Zef Lush Marku" as well as in secondary schools SMS "28 Noemvri" - Debar, SMS Gymnasium "Kocho Racin" - Veles, SMS Gymnasium "Gostivar" as well as SES - Gostivar, "Shaip Jusuf" from Skopje.

Duration of the project/programme: 2011-2024.

Donor: German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Partner organization: KURVE WUSTROW

Activities conducted in 2021:

In the period covered by the report, 1 online and 4 live trainings were conducted.

2.1. Online training "Restorative schools" 2

The second training module "Restorative Schools" was conducted in January 2021 as a continuation of the training conducted in December 2019. In these online training sessions, the focus was on increasing knowledge and skills related to the restorative approach in schools, and the sessions were dedicated to practicing skills for a restorative conversation and a demonstration of a face-to-face restorative meeting between a teacher and a student after an incident in the classroom.

The purpose of the training is to acquire knowledge and skills that will build a safe and positive environment in schools, using restorative practices for non-violent conflict resolution and improving relations in schools. The application of restorative practices restores relationships among classmates, increases the sense of belonging, reduces aggression and violence, and at

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the same time develops emotional and social skills. More about the restorative approach at the link: <https://transformingconflict.org/>



2.2. "Prevention, protection and dealing with natural and other disasters and crisis situations - through the educational system"

In the period August - October 2021, 2 trainings were conducted on the topic of protection and dealing with crises, because they are the main characteristic of life, especially in recent years, and their consequences are also reflected in the educational system. The program was made taking into account the emerging situation with climate change, the recent major floods and the large number of fires that occurred during the summer period. The goal was to strengthen the capacities and skills of the participants for crisis management, crisis prevention and intervention and to increase the capacities for solidarity, empathy and a sense of connection with others regardless of physical distance. A representative from BRO, a member of the Fire Fighting Unit of the city of Skopje, as well as the commander of the Fire Fighting Unit participated in the training as guest trainers.



2.3. Forum Theater for social change on the topic of Bullying. The training was conducted from 07-09 December 2021 in Ohrid, with students from two secondary schools from Gostivar involved in the Peace Education Program.

Main goal of the training was preparation of theater performance on topic of peer violence (bullying) and recognition of different types of violence. The training attended 18 high school students from two high schools. The participants shared a large number of personal examples of violence, peer, structural, and even violence from teachers, where they were witnesses or victims. Students at training worked on recognition, prevention and protection from peer violence. The workshops had an educational impact on the group and encouraged critical and proactive thinking and behavior. At the end of the process, the participants chose three etudes for Forum Theater performance. Regarding the selected topics, the participants found them the most common topics in their everyday life and they include verbal violence, exclusion from groups and discrimination.

Two Forum theater performances were performed, on 24.12.2021 in the Youth Center in Gostivar and on 28.12.2021 in SOEU "Gostivar" in Gostivar.

[Tag der Menschenrechte 2021](#)

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[| KURVE Wustrow](#)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-2sx8RkmDg&ab_channel=Megiashi



2.4. Basic training in Peacebuilding and Peace Education

From 9-12 December in Ohrid, Basic training in Peacebuilding and Peace Education was organized, after a longer period of time again. The main goal of the training was to create a new homogeneous group of teachers who will get knowledge about the basic concepts of peace education and then implement various peace education activities in the schools where they work. In addition, the goal of the training was to support and strengthen the capacities of the existing Peace Education teams in schools. Topics covered in this training were: teamwork, communication and non-violent communication, violence and non-violence, conflicts.

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2.5. Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) / Working meeting "Peace activities in the time of Covid-19"

In the period May - July, two working meetings were held with representatives of the MoES and teachers involved in the Peace Education Program. At the meeting with the Coordinating Body from the MoES in March, representatives of the Ministry expressed interest to get more information about the positive experiences of the program during the period of Covid-19. Due to this interest, as soon as the restrictive measures allowed, the Peace Education team organized two working meetings with the representatives of the MoES and the teachers who had carried out peace activities, online or in person in the past period. The program of the meetings was set up in two parts. In the first part, PE team members and the representatives of the MoES discussed about the cooperation between the Ministry of Education and Megjasi, the challenges in education in the "new normal" and the work of Megjasi during the pandemic. In the second part, the teachers joined the meeting and presented activities that they carried out during the pandemic. Also, questions about digital books, the school diary and other topics related to digitalization were discussed with the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science.

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2.6. Team building activities

During the reporting period, great attention was paid to self-care, teamwork and team building in order to overcome physical barriers as the Megjashi team works from home.

Various workshops and trainings were conducted:

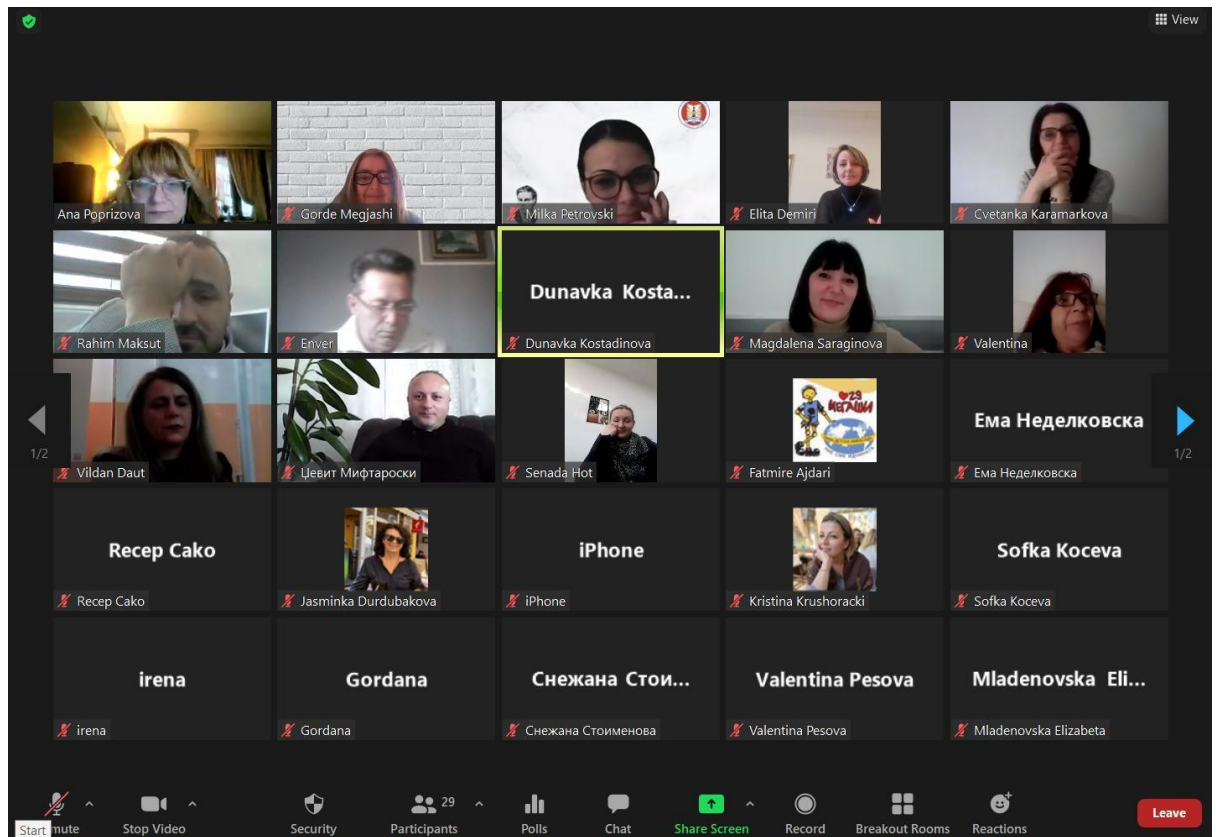
- a two-day workshop "Burnout Syndrome and Coping Strategies" where was discussed about the various aspects of burnout and stress with special emphasis on personal and team coping strategies for chronic stress and burnout syndrome etc.
- during the year there were one-day workshops on team building, "Me and my team" on the topic of personal insights on time management and delegation of duties or responsibilities and "Music therapy - stress relief and increasing team motivation" dedicated to stress relief and recognition of personal motivation in both formal and informal settings.
- team building on the topic "Managing conflicts through SDI tools, effective communication and public speaking" which aimed to improve effective communication and conflict management through SDI tools.

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2.7. During the reporting period, FCEW Megjashi - Peace Education Program conducted **24 webinars.**

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The webinars for which we are reporting were conducted from February to December 2021, with 24 webinars.

The topics of the webinars were:

1. "Sexual education - concepts and dilemmas"
2. "Presentation of results of the evaluation of webinars for teachers held as response to the Covid-19 crisis."
3. „Finding Common Ground“
4. „Finding Common Ground“
5. "Sexual education - concepts and dilemmas"
6. "Sexual education - concepts and dilemmas"
7. “Challenges in dealing with bullying in online teaching”
8. “Challenges in dealing with bullying in online teaching”
9. "Ecology and Peace Education"
10. "Ecology and Peace Education"
11. “Children's rights in Macedonia, in the past and now”
12. “Procrastination - postponement of work to be completed”
13. “Procrastination - postponement of work to be completed”
14. “It’s time for activism”
15. "What is Peace (for me) today?"
16. “Positive Psychology and Mental Health - How Much Do We Need for Happiness?”
17. “Positive Psychology and Mental Health - How Much Do We Need for Happiness?”
18. “Beginning of the school year 2021/22”
19. “International Peace Day 2021”

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20. "Digital education"
21. "Digital education"
22. "Sexual education in schools –based on context of Serbia"
23. "Campaign Encourage Peace"
24. "Let us meet ourselves on the eve of the New Year"

2.8. School activities

During the year, the schools included in the Peace Education program were actively involved, teachers together with the students conducted various activities and workshops within Peace Education, such as online and in person workshops, discussions, films, art activities, humanitarian activities, Forum theater for social changes etc. With special attention and a large number of activities, World Day of Peace - September 21 was marked.



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2.9 Campaign "Encourage Peace"

Campaign "Encourage Peace" started on April 6, 2021 with a press conference attended by the president of Megjasi, members of the PEP team and journalists, and at the same time, it was widely followed because it was broadcast live on social networks. According to the dynamics of the campaign, for a period of more than a month, a new announcement/post was published every second day on a different topic (solidarity, peace is not just absence of war, acceptance of diversity, change of society...). Besides on Macedonian language, the posts were also translated into Albanian, Roma, Turkish, Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian and Vlach. The campaign had a large reach of people through all social networks where the Medgjasi Children's Embassy is active. Video materials were produced, i.e. 4 videos on topics that are important for peace education and that aroused the greatest interest according to the posts and reactions on social networks:

- Life is in danger [Животот е загрозен! - YouTube](#)
- Strong but non-violent [ПОТТИКНИ МИР БОРЕЈЌИ СЕ СИЛНО А НЕНАСИЛНО. - YouTube](#)
- Peace is not just absence of war [Мирот не е само отсуство на војна - YouTube](#) and
- Take responsibility - change society [Преземи одговорност - менувај го општеството! - YouTube](#)

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The campaign was reactivated on September 21, 2021 with the first video on environmental topic. At the same time, first video was broadcast in all public transport buses in Skopje for a period of one week, and every subsequent video was published with similar dynamics. Videos were uploaded on different social networks (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Flickr, Vimeo, Tumblr, LinkedIn...). All 4 videos were sponsored on Facebook for 7 days each. The total coverage figure of 47,440 people speaks of the high interest stimulated by the campaign. On the occasion of the World Peace Day, T-shirts with the motto "Encourage peace" and "Encourage peace - peace is not just the absence of war" were made within the framework of the same campaign. T-shirts were sent to the schools involved in the Peace Education Program so that teachers and students could wear them during the activities. Within the campaign, a webinar was also held on the topic of the campaign with teachers from different schools where was discussed the target group to which the campaign refers, how the visual part was made and how the process went, ideas, directions, solutions, etc.



3. Empowering child's strengths for violence prevention

Name of the project/programme: Empowering child's strengths for violence prevention

Objective: The project has three specific objectives: Building the capacity of the adults (professionals and parents) to understand and respect their needs, to respect their views and to safeguard their rights on the basis of the resilience theory; Improving the capacity of professionals and parents to ensure safe and secure family and school environment by shifting focus from problems, deficits, limitations to strengths, resources, potential; and Assisting adolescents to identify their competences and resources against violence and failures.

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Target group: two elementary schools from Skopje - "Stiv Naumov" and "Brakja Ramiz i Hamid", pupils, teaching and professional staff, parents, Center for social work, Police department, centres for children without parental care.

Duration of the project/programme: 2016-2021.

Donor: OAK Foundation

Partner Organisation: Social Activities and Practices Institute – SAPI (lead), Sofia, Bulgaria

From 01.10.2016, the First Children's Embassy in the world Međiši started the implementation of the project "Empowering child's strengths for violence prevention" which is implemented by a partnership between civil organizations from several countries in the region, namely: Social Activities and Practices Institute - SAPI from Bulgaria as a lead of the project in partnership with First children's embassy in the world Megjashi, Association for Child and Family Empowerment "Ave Copii" from Moldavia, Social Services Agency from Latvia, Federatia Organizatiilor Neguvernamentale pentru Copil from Romania, Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia – MODS from Serbia, The Association for a better world from Slovenia and Tirana Legal aid society (TLAS) from Albania.

The project has been implemented since October 2016 and ended in November 2022, financially supported by Oak Foundation.

Due to the special circumstances caused by the pandemic and the measures related to it at the global level, in 2020, the period for the implementation of the activities was extended by two months, that is, until November 2021, so that the activities could be completed.

Activities conducted in 2021:

Between December 2020 to November 2021, the following activities were implemented and the following results were achieved:

3.1. International training on Integrated approach for children victims of violence – advocacy

- Three representatives of Megjashi attended the three-day training on integrated approach for children victims of violence that took place online, via Zoom platform between 19 and 21 April 2021. All of them evaluated the training and all covered topics as mostly valuable and applicable not only to this project but also to other Megjashi's projects and activities. The inter-institutional cooperation and multidisciplinary approach and the example of Zona ZaKmila - Child advocacy center work (Barnachus model comprehensive approach to the protection of the rights of a child who has been abused) was especially evaluated as very important.

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3.2. Strengthening the local network for professionals (including the professional community) - national training

- At the end of August/beginning of September 2021 (25 and 26 August 2021 and 2 September 2021) a series of webinars related to the local survey results were conducted. During the three webinars the results of the survey were presented and discussed, and afterwards workshops on topics emotional literacy, mental health and stress management in times of pandemics and prevention and intervention of cyber bullying in the context of online learning/digital environment were conducted. Apart from teachers and professionals from schools, police officers (juvenile delinquency inspectors) participated. The recommendations provided with the survey will help primarily the schools/teachers in issues related to online bullying, but also would help finding ways of cooperation among police.

3.3. Local research on effects of the pandemics on children

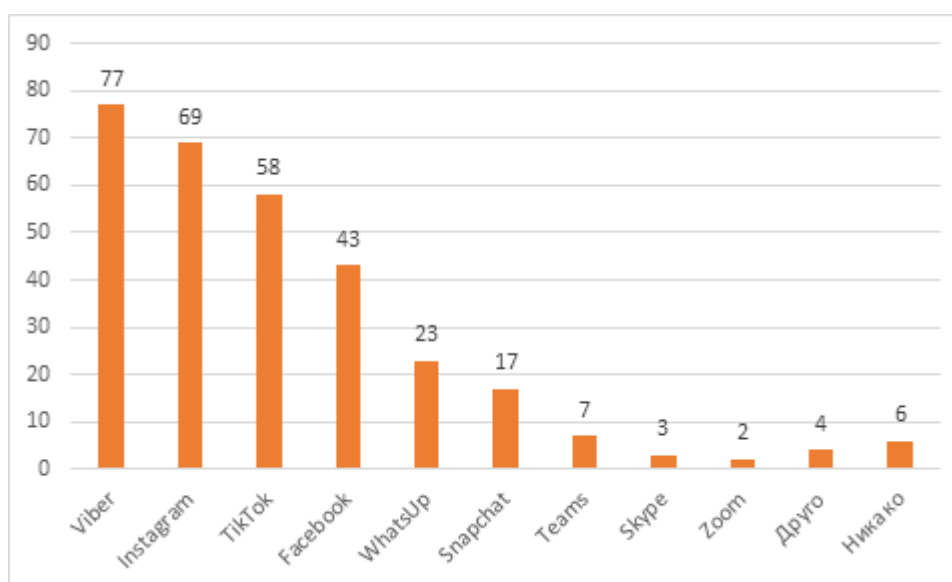
- As part of the activities related to the initiatives of the network for improvement of practices and methodological support, an online survey was conducted during June and July 2021 through the Google Forms platform. Namely, the academic year 2020/2021 was the second academic year in a row that was implemented through home/distance learning. Towards the end of the school year, there was a debate and there was resistance among some of the students, teaching staff and parents regarding the new proposed law on the digitization of education. As of the beginning of the pandemics and new way of teaching/learning, there is no relevant survey on the state and opinion of the students how they feel and what they think about this kind of learning. Also the potential for cyber bullying is increased as they spend most of their time and for many areas of their life online. Therefore we conducted a nationwide survey that explored their mental health state, perception and experience of online learning, as well as how much the cyber bullying has increased, if at all during this last year. The online survey was implemented during June and July. The data were collected anonymously and on a voluntary basis and with parental/guardian consent. A total of 1231 children from all over Macedonia participated in the research. Of these, 58.1% are girls and 40.3% are boys. The age range ranged from 10 to 18 years, with an average of 14.35 years. The children gave us answers through an online questionnaire on how they dealt with the crisis so far and how the measures affect them; what worries them most and what they miss. We conclude how the children have adapted to the new situation from responses related to their information (how they found out about the corona virus, who explained to them what this virus is), how they spend their free time (whether their time is fulfilled, in what way, whether they maintain communication with their peers), what

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they miss the most, what worries them, and especially important, with whom they can share their worries and whether they are satisfied with how much time their parents / guardians talk to them. A special section is dedicated to how they see the teaching taking place in new circumstances, the distance learning, and what worries them most in school matters during a pandemic.

The results showed us that children learned about the existence of the corona virus in different ways, but mostly through television or the Internet (about 61%), while (only) one fifth of the children learned about the virus from their parents.

Furthermore, the results showed that during the pandemic children communicated with their peers mostly through the social network Instagram and the communication application Viber.



Graph: Ways of peer communication during oandemics

Children were most concerned about the uncertainty of the current situation, but they were also very worried about the health of family members or other people, including the worry that one of them might die. A certain percentage of children are also worried about existential issues (whether they will have enough money, whether they will have enough food) and the possibility of additional restrictions on freedom, such as the introduction of new movement restrictions. Some children are afraid of passing the virus on to people around them, especially their families; in other words, they fear that they will be "blamed" if someone in their family gets sick.

The questionnaire was distributed with the help of colleagues from the partnering schools but also with the help of students from the Faculty of Philosophy. The survey results were shared with the professional community but also with the wider public. On 17 August an online press conference was held to share the results of the survey with the wider general and professional public.

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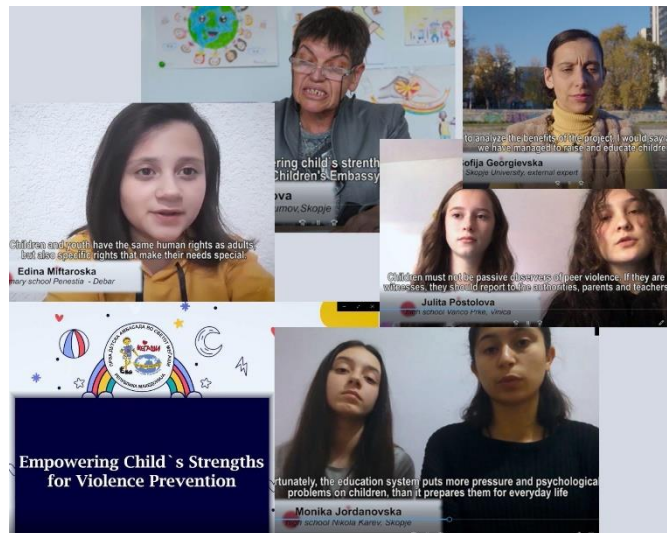
3.4. Evaluation of the effects of the Projects

- During the first half of June an external expert was engaged and introduced with the research methodology provided through SAPI to evaluate the effects of the project. This was the third and final evaluation process throughout the life of the project (the first one at the project inception, the second one in 2019 and the third one in the last project's year). The expert disseminated the survey to a group of 30 children, teachers and parents. In addition, she conducted interviews/focus groups with parents, students and other professionals – police officers and employees of the Centre of Social work, who participated in the project. In the analysis of the in depth interviews there were found a series of interesting viewpoints on definitions of safety and its constituent conditions. Important differences in how the students, parents, and teachers viewed questions of school safety, and safety in general were found. The teachers tended to be especially concerned with control and the ways in which parents could help them maintain control at school. The students were also concerned with order and control, and said that they felt safer when the environment was orderly and quiet. Both children and adults were concerned with the ability of adults to maintain control, but the children expressed reservations about the ability of the adults to control themselves and each other. Respondents were grateful for the experience they have gained during active participation in Empowering the child's strengths for violence prevention project, gave many suggestions, most of which were well formulated, convincingly explained and justified. If only some of them were adopted and implemented, the system would work much better.

3.5. International Conference: “Resilience: Prevention of Violence in the School Community”, 24-25 November 2021

- SAPI, as a project lead organized this conference as a closing event rounding the five-year long project. The conference was organized as a two-day online event at which all partners shared their experience, results and gained skills and knowledge. Five members from Megjashi attended and benefitted from the Conference. Project coordinator along with the external expert collaborator of the project shared the benefits that not only the project beneficiaries have but also Megjashi as an organization. The external expert shared her experience as a trainer of parents on positive parenting. The conference was very highly valued by the whole team of Megjashi that participated as they had an opportunity to hear many inspirational examples from partners from other countries. The common conclusion and willingness of all partners was that we will seek other ways for future collaboration.

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3.6. The group of children that were actively participating in this project, along with their peers from other Megjashi's projects held an online press conference, fully child-lead on Zoom on 20 November 2021 between 11 and 12 hrs. They presented their main concerns about child rights and stressed that they ask from the media to be more child friendly in terms of having more child friendly contents and allowing children to design and lead some of the media programmes. In their view still violence, discrimination, street children and quality of education are the main problems children face and asked for more efficient actions from the authorities.

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4.PROJECT LET'S TAKE THE RIGHTS IN OUR HANDS

Project/programme title: Let's take the rights in our hands

Objective: The project has two specific objectives: schools are violence free and staff and parents are informed and use affirmative methods to ensure safe and secure family and school environment for children; promotion, protection, and fulfillment of children's rights in the country with a focus on the appropriate reporting for child rights violation, as well as on increasing children's participating

Target group: Elementary schools from Skopje - "Stiv Naumov" and "25 Maj", from Debar - "Said Najdeni" and "Penestia" and from Vinica - "Goce Delcev" and "Slavco Stojmiski", pupils, teachers and professional staff and parents.

Duration of the project/programme: 2017-2021.

Donor: SIDA - Government of Sweden

Partner Organization: Save the Children International во Косово

The Children's embassy Megjashi has implemented the project "Let's take the rights in our hands" between August 2012 to December 2021, financially supported by SIDA through partnership with Save the children Kosovo.

Objective 1: Safe and secure school and family environment for children

For 2021, as for the previous year, the main risk was the COVID-19 pandemic. But despite the pandemic and the online teaching, we managed to achieve the goal, adopting the same way of work as schools - most of the activities to strengthen the capacities of the schools were carried out online.

4.1 Psychosocial support to professional and teaching staff and mentorship during implementation of school activities

Teacher stress and well-being can determine teacher performance, and accordingly, that of their students. A culture of empathy and support for teachers sets the tone for an entire school. It is well known that when we are in an environment that's caring, respectful and positive, we perform better and are able to give more of ourselves. Teachers and professional staff are no different. With this in mind throughout the year we have designed webinars in such a way to be first helpful personally to professional staff and some teachers through personal experience engagement so that they can easily transfer to their colleagues. The target group of trainees got support from the project team and the trainer who has lead them through the whole training process from May throughout to December.

Among the activities to achieve this goal is the provision of psychosocial support to the professional services and teaching staff in the target six schools, which is expected to contribute to the continuous strengthening of their skills and capacities.

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The webinars included 16 teachers and professional associates from 6 primary schools from Debar, Vinica, Skopje. Webinars were held on six topics. They were realized in the form of online interactive workshops lasting a maximum of 3 hours, using the Zoom platform as a result of adapting to the rules of social distance during the pandemic. The program for the webinars was designed based on the topics suggested and based on a questionnaire that assessed the needs of the participants. The aim of the webinars was to gain basic knowledge on topics related to mental health, and their application in the school environment. 6 modules with different subtopics were developed which were realized in the period from 13.04. until 29.06.2021

Webinar 1 "Emotions" - April 13, 2021. This module included: Notion of emotions. Types of emotions, ways of expressing them, practical exercises for working with emotions with students. Emotion management. Case studies. The module aimed to establishing network the participants and agree on the technical and methodological guidelines for work. A special reference was put to the way of recognizing and articulating emotions. Practical techniques for working with students were suggested. In addition, a distinction was made between human needs, emotions and feelings, emphasizing the importance of recognizing one's own needs and developing behaviors and emotions that follow those needs.

Also, different ways of dealing and managing emotions were presented. Participants also had the opportunity to break down myths about emotions through group work. Participants had the opportunity to discuss various practical examples and case studies, which gave them the opportunity to exchange their experiences and dilemmas.

Webinar 2 "Procrastination" was held on May 20, 2021 and included: The notion of procrastination. Origin and reasons for procrastination; Ways to deal with procrastination. Working with students who procrastinate. Case studies.

This module dealt with the emergence of procrastination, defining its terms, forms of manifestation in the behavior of the individual. In addition, we worked on the origin and reasons that lead to the development of this behavior, seen from a sociological and psychological aspect. Through concrete examples were shown ways and techniques for working with students who procrastinate. Through consideration of specific situations, each participant had the opportunity to share their opinion and experience. The discussion was rich and motivating and the participants expressed their satisfaction with the session.

Webinar 3 and 4 "Social anxiety, panic and anxiety attacks" - June 22, 2021. During this webinar which lasted longer the following topics were addressed: What is social anxiety (social phobia). Symptoms and behavior in a person with social phobia. How to work with a student who has a social phobia. What are panic attacks. How panic attacks and anxiety occur. How to work with a student who has panic attacks. In this webinar, the terms social anxiety, panic and anxiety attacks were explained in detail and what is the distinction and how to differentiate them. These topics for technical reasons were merged into a webinar that lasted longer, with a break between the two topics. In the area of social anxiety, the concept and symptoms of social anxiety were elaborated and ways how to work with a student who has such behavior, such as

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learning relaxation techniques, problem solving, cognitive reformulation, friendship building skills and the like. In the part of panic and anxiety attacks, a distinction was made between these terms, then the ways of manifestation of panic attacks and what are the reasons for their occurrence were presented. Then concrete steps were presented to work with a student who has an anxiety or panic attack. Also, through practical group work, the participants had the opportunity to discuss, exchange experiences and suggest ideas for work in specific cases.

Webinars 5 and 6 "Peer pressure and low self-esteem" - June 29, 2021.

The last webinar covered the topics of what is peer pressure, how peer pressure occurs and how low self-esteem affects the peer pressure. The topics covered were the following: Types of peer pressure. Effects of peer pressure on the person; Low self-esteem and peer pressure. In this webinar, ways and types of peer pressure were presented. The way in which this pressure is manifested and which fields it can cover were presented. The effects that peer pressure can have on the student's psyche were discussed, as well as ways to deal with this phenomenon in a school context. A connection was made between the peer pressure and the low self-confidence of the student. During the workshop the participants were familiarized and discussed the ways in which the school can work on increasing students' self-confidence. In addition, the participants shared their good practices and experiences in this regard.

Apart from the webinars, the same expert also was leading the mentoring process of the professional staff in 6 target schools, along with the project coordinator. The purpose of the mentoring meetings was to support the school teams in the implementation of the activities planned in their action plans. 12 mentoring sessions were held - 2 per school, the first one in February while planning the activities and the second one in June.

This model of networking work between schools with different languages of instruction from different backgrounds is a great example of a model of successful integration between schools. Also working with a small group (16 participants), with school teams and a combination of webinars, mentoring and conducting activities is a model of good practice in cases where it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of teachers to work with children in areas related to students' mental health and teaching staff.

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4.2 Training on restorative approach in schools for teaching and professional staff - 3 one-day introductory training, October - December 2021

On October 14, October 21 and December 24 three one-day in person training was conducted for teaching and professional staff of six target elementary schools, in each of the cities. For teaching and professional staff (7 persons) from two schools from Debar in rented premises (schools Penestia and Said Najdeni) the training was held on 14 October, while for teaching and professional staff (8 persons) from two schools from Vinica (schools Slavco Stojmenski and Goce Delcev) was held on 21 October in the premises of one of the schools. The last of the restorative approach training series was held on 24 December for the Since the number of participants will be few, it was suggested to the schools to invite 1 or 2 more teachers to join the training. teaching and professional staff (4 persons) from two schools from Skopje (Stiv Naumov and 25 Maj). With these three training session total of 19 teaching and professional staff were included, out of which 4 teachers and 15 professional staff (psychologists, pedagogues, social workers and special educators), 3 men and 16 women. The training program included introduction of the five core principles/beliefs of restorative approach (unique perspective, thoughts-feelings-behaviour, impact on others, needs of all concerned and consultation and involvement in decision-making of the affected persons). The purpose of the training was to build/strengthen the capacities of teachers, special educators and other professional staff to apply the restorative approach and methodology in their work or parts of their work. Some of the participants had basic knowledge about the restorative approach and therefore part of the workshop included practical exercises and case studies so that they can experience the presented principles. During the training few steps were elaborated and

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practiced which can be later easily implemented in the process of counselling and conflict resolution.

Objective 2: Promotion, protection, and fulfillment of children's rights in the country with a focus on the appropriate reporting for child rights violation, as well as on increasing children's participating

4.3 Presentation of the Children's Alternative Report to the UN Committee for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), at its 88th Pre-Session

As in the previous years, and especially last year, the children participation principle was the key accomplishment throughout the Objective 2 activities and outcomes, as well as in the overall work of Megjashi.

At the beginning of the 2021, in February, group of children that developed the Alternative report on child rights situation in Macedonia presented it before the members of the UN CRC at its 88th Pre-Session. They have also followed the session at which the representatives of NGOs have presented its Alternative report before the CRC. The engaged Child Rights Specialist has worked with children on their preparation for presenting their report to the Child Rights Committee members at the 88th Pre-Session. To that purpose she has coordinated several online meetings with the group of children authors of the report guiding them through the process of self-selection of their representatives at the Pre-Session, mentoring them during presentation development, meeting with the Child Rights Connect, and accompanying them along with the project coordinator as chaperons at the Pre-Session held online in February.

4.4 Strengthening the team and the work of the Helpline for children and youth

The SOS helpline for children and youth's team was significantly strengthened through one SOS operator/counsellor, a supervisor-psychologist and a team of five volunteers at the helpline. Crucial for the SOS service improvement was maintaining and even growing the group of volunteers who enabled the service to be available for 24 hours per day. Namely, the supervisor of the helpline coordinated the group of volunteers and provided a possibility to have the line open after the working hours through organising shifts among volunteers to receive the calls. As of March, a MoU with the Association of Students in psychology at Skopje University – Psihesko was signed and since then the activities of the service were extended through conducting online workshops on child rights for students of 3rd and 5th grades of primary schools. The group of volunteers is constantly growing. At the end of 2021, the number of volunteers is 15. Five of those were constant volunteers throughout the year, while the ten new ones have just joined Megjashi's SOS team by the end of December and their engagement and training will start in January 2022.

During the summer volunteers were maintaining the access of the helpline as promoted 24/7. During the wildfires in the eastern part of Macedonia, the volunteers actively participated in providing help to those in need – designed an informative banner providing information about the support the helpline offers and numbers for immediate psychological help for all citizens

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but with a focus on children that were victims of the wildfires. The information banners were posted on several social media channels of Megjashi.

All volunteers are highly motivated, reliable and responsive to the needs of the helpline's team and Megjashi. During their volunteering as of January this year, we had only a few occasions to meet the whole Megjashi team in person and for that reason we organised two-day training and socialising with Megjashi on 26 and 27 October in Veles. The training focused on advanced knowledge of child rights, and especially in the context of helpline, but also in communication and other emotional literacy topics. The training was very successful.



4.5 Awareness raising campaign for promotion of children's rights among pupils from elementary schools

As of March the group of volunteers started a campaign for promotion of child rights, delivering online 30-minutes workshops on child rights for pupils in third and fifth grade in elementary school. The campaign started with several schools in Skopje and by the end of May over 30 workshops were delivered to around 20 schools and over 1000 pupils from several cities. The 30-minutes workshop was designed to be interactive, engaging pupils to comprehend their rights. During the campaign the pupils were also familiarised with the work of the helpline as a place where they can refer to whenever some of their rights are violated or if they need more information. The campaign continued at the beginning of October. This time the volunteers took the leadership in the process and direct communication with teachers, planning, scheduling online sessions with children and their teachers and they will be delivering as before these workshops.

4.6 Comprehensive survey on the need to design a special web platform for the helpline, its contents and functionalities

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The research was conducted during April and May and is consisted of two major parts: 1. a review and analysis of existing similar sites of children and youth helplines in the region and the world, and 2. an online survey of a representative sample of children and young people aged 11 to 18 on the habits and preferred ways of communication when seeking advice, areas for who need advice and support, as well as topics of interest to them, sample of parents and sample of teachers from both primary and high schools throughout the country. The online survey was conducted via Google Forms. A sample of 30 websites of helplines for children and youth were analyzed preliminary and then through a method of structured template for content analysis of websites the sample was reduced to 6 websites that were analyzed in detail. The template for analysis was based on seven (7) analyzed groups of information: general information (language/s of the website, impressum, target audience/s and special pages for each target group – children, teenagers, parents, teachers etc.), structure and appearance of the website (elements such as logo, slogan, dominant color/s, font size, graphic design, photos, dynamics of the site, privacy information etc.), possibility for interaction, informative and educational character of the website, user friendliness for the target audience/s, simplicity and security of the website and creativity and/or entertainment it offers. As for the online survey, a sample of 431 students (114 Albanian and 317 Macedonian; 247 girls and 177 boys, 7 didn't want to state their gender), a sample of 287 parents (92 Albanian and 195 Macedonian; 214 women and 69 men) and a sample of 113 teachers (45 Albanian and 68 Macedonian; 64 from high school and 49 from primary schools) responded to the survey. The survey explored several areas: respondents' habits using internet and social media, how much time they spend on social media on average, what is the preferred/mostly used device and application, if they know about the Megjashi's helpline, if they have used it or know some that has, what their experience and then questions about a helpline site – if they would use it, what is most important to use it etc. Based on the analysis of the research results, the researchers developed a proposed concept of the elements of the website, its contents and communication channels and other features of the website.

4.7 Press conference for the promotion of the 2021 Semi-annual Report on helpline for children and youth work (first half of the year), 09.07.2021.

On July 9, the Annual report on the work of the helpline in the period from January to June 2021 was promoted, as well as the results of the research for the needs of the new website of the SOS telephone at a media conference. The conference was held outdoors, in the courtyard of the Oreov Lad restaurant, respecting all measures to protect against the pandemic. The media attendance was significant, all national TV houses attended, as well as online media and MIA, and the event was broadcast on almost all electronic and social media.

4.8 Development of special website for helpline and child rights - Alo Bushavko

Starting in September and ending in December 2021, an external experts developed a new web platformed of Megjshi for the needs of helpline for children and youth. The purpose of the new website is to medernise and digitalise the service, offering more communication channels and

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interactive contents to children and youth. The website is named Alo Bushavko and its domain is <https://alobushavko.mk/> and has four (4) categories: pages for children up to 12 years of age, for teenagers 13-18, family and school. Each of these pages offers various contents, including emotional literacy, information and tips for types of violence, school related topics, safety on Internet, cyberbullying etc. the web platform and its contents are available in three languages – Macedonian, Albanian and English

In terms of interaction and communication channels, the web platform offers a chat option to contact a counsellor, and also an email possibility option (directly sending to the counselor's inbox – alobushavko@childrensembassy.org.mk). The website is updated on a regular basis

4.9 Children's participation and children's projects in six partnering schools Stiv Naumov and 25 Maj from Skopje, Penestia and Said Najdeni from Debar, Slavco Stojmenski and Goce Delcev from Vinica

More than 30 pupils from the target schools were trained in designing and implementing projects in their local school environment, as well as in coordinating and motivating large groups of peers to participate in activities.

The training was conducted by an external associate together with the project coordinator. All six school projects were prepared and implemented by the children themselves with the support of professional collaborators participating in the project or teachers and promoted in their local communities.

A large part of the projects engaged and collaborated with other stakeholders from the community such as traffic police, companies, school management, mayors, etc. Each of the schools promoted their activities through the schools' social networks (Facebook, Twitter) and received wide public support and promotion. Each of the six schools had a budget of 1,000 euros in Denar equivalents for the implementation of the activities of the children's projects. In the following, the children's projects by school are briefly given.

Stiv Naumov, Skopje – Raising awareness of students in their school for taking care of the school inventory

25 Maj, Skopje - raising the awareness of students about the traffic through educational and promotional activities

Penestia, Debar – Improving the school environment through promotion of students' participation in various activities, including sport, violence prevention, cleaner environment and care for the children in hospital

Said Najdeni, Debar – Providing equal opportunities to all children in the school through increasing the school library book fund and promoting the reading practice through various motivating activities

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Slavco Stojmenski, Vinica – raising awareness about the clean environment

Goce Delcev, Vinica – prevention of bullying in the school through raising awareness, educational and other activities.



4. 10 Civic and social mobilisation for furthering children’s rights strengthened

This was the most challenging outcome to achieve. The low level of interest among NGOs, apart from the last year’s development of the Alternative Report on state of the child rights,

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was a risk that was not accurately envisaged at the time of planning the project activities for 2021. During the first half of 2021, representatives of several organisations coordinated by Megjashi presented the NGO's Alternative report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child during the online 88th Pre-session in February 2021. We had several attempts to motivate the NGOs that were part of the non-formal Coalition that drafted the Alternative Report to perform other activities, but with very small success. In March, a survey was conducted among NGOs for a questionnaire intended for members of the informal coalition and other organisations working to promote children's rights in order to map the relevant topics / areas to be addressed in further meetings of the Coalition. The most frequently chosen topic was education, so the first consultative meeting with the members was on the topic "Distance learning and the right to education" held on June 11, 2021 at Zoom, which was attended by panellists from representatives of several organisations.

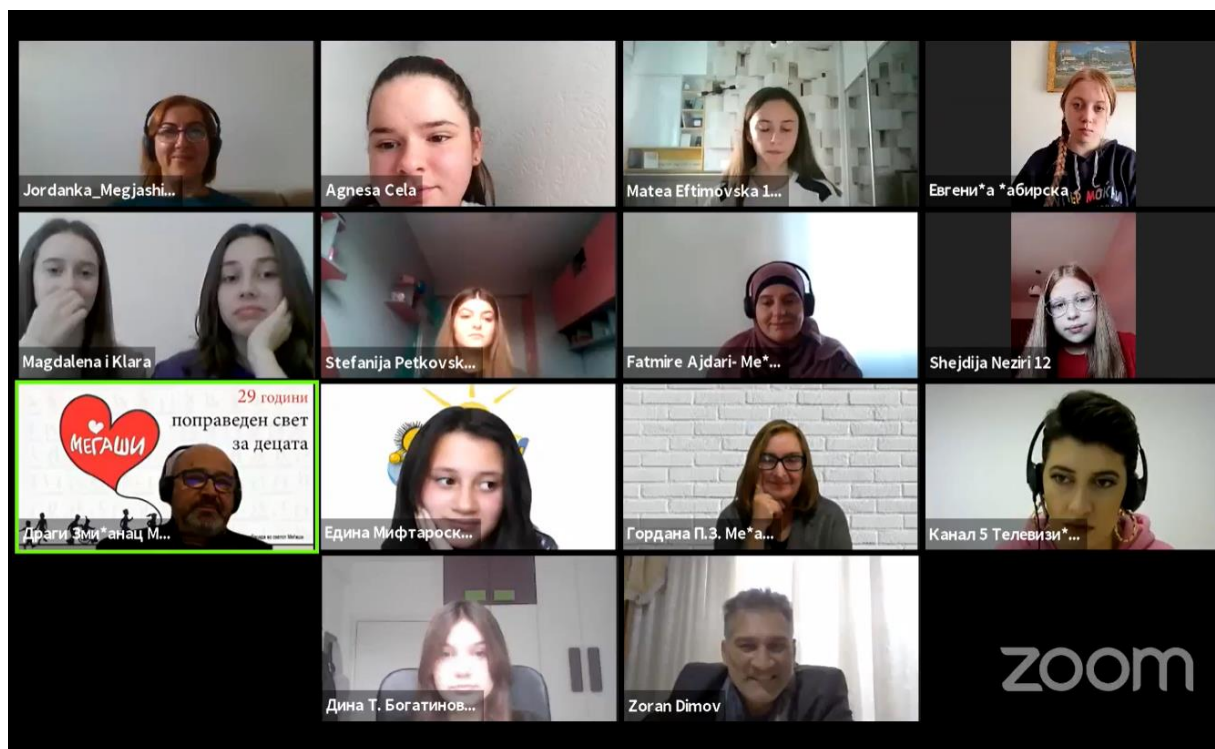
In order to hear the voice of the children and on the occasion of November 20 - World Children's Day, a press conference was organized led by the children who participated in the preparation of the children's reports.

Link from the conference

<https://www.facebook.com/detskaambasadamegjashi/videos/194625249425186>

#СветскиДенНаДетето #WorldChildrensDay #DitaBotëroreEFëmijës #WCD2021
#ЗаСекоеДете

World Children's Day 2021: join the youth advocating for child rights



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4.11 Organisational Capacity development

As a separate part of the project, there was also the part foreseen for strengthening the organisational capacities of Megjashi, and within this part three activities were carried out, two of which directly contribute to strengthening the capacities of Megjashi in the area of children's rights, as well as in the area of protection of personal data. The third activity was a final workshop for the evaluation of the progress of the organisational capacities of Megjashi during the five years of the duration of the project.

A. FCEW Megjashi's Child safeguarding policy

The first activity was a two-day all-day training conducted online on the Zoom platform dedicated to the revision and improvement of the Child Protection Policy. The training was carried out by experts on child protection policy, Astrid Wikler of the global network for the prevention of sexual exploitation of children ECPAT from Austria and Donjeta Kalmendi, executive director of the Network of Organizations for the Protection of Children's Rights from Kosovo KOMF. The training took place on November 3 and 4. Even though the training took place online, it was designed in a way to enable active participation of all participants through a number of exercises and discussions in small groups. The entire operational team of Međjasi, as well as the volunteers from the SOS telephone, participated in the training.



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B. Evaluation of the organisational capacity of FCEW Megjashi

The second activity was a three-day workshop for the assessment of organisational capacities, that is, the assessment of progress and improvement of identified weaknesses and areas for improvement during the initial assessment in 2017, at the beginning of the project.

Based on the first evaluation, a series of activities aimed at improving the capacities were designed during the past four years. The workshop was held in person in Berovo (Manastir Hotel) from November 15 to 17.

It was especially significant that the self-assessment confirmed that during the past period Megjashi has made significant progress in three areas out of a total of seven. In the remaining four areas of capacities, there are no changes, that is, in those areas, even during the first assessment, they were assessed as being highly developed. It is important to note that such evaluations had a very positive and motivating effect on everyone from the operative and volunteer team.

[Detailed evaluation of the development of organizational capacities | Flickr](#)



B. Harmonise the work, procedures and work processes of FCEW Megjashi with Personal data protection Law

During the second half of November and during December 2021, an external expert on personal data protection performed an analysis of all work processes from the aspect of the Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL) and proposed a series of documents, procedures and procedures. The process continues during 2022 and will include training of the entire staff of Megjashi, assistance in choosing an officer for the protection of personal data, support and guidance through the process of applying the necessary measures for compliance with PDPL.

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5. CIVIKA MOBILITAS – INSTITUTIONAL GRANT, DONATIONS, ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES, ISO ...

In July 2021, the implementation of the third year of the CIVIKA mobilitas grant began. The funds from the grant for the third year are mainly intended for the realization of several significant activities for the Children's Embassy Megjashi, such as Reports and recommendations from the SOS phone for children and youth, Recertification for ISO 9001:2015 and Generating funds from economic and other activities.

5.1. New Year's greetings cards

The sale of New Year's cards for 2021 followed the practices of previous years, with no significant changes in the way of conducting the activity and minimal changes in the offer. Companies, institutions, organizations as well as citizens could choose from the 5 new New Year's motifs or the additional 6 last year's motifs at a reduced price compared to the previous year. The sales in 2021 compared to the previous year do not show any concessions both in the number of greeting cards and in the number of supporters.

5.2. Donation boxes

The activities in the part of donations from citizens, the distribution and change of charity boxes, in 2021 saw a slight increase compared to 2020. During this year, a new charity box for donations was installed in Burkjilnica Vatasha in the Lisice neighborhood.

5.3. ISO standard recertification

Towards the end of 2021, the first children's embassy in the world, Megjasi, was recertified for the ISO standard. The first supervisory check of the ISO 9001:2015 certificate was performed online on 05.11.2021 by a licensed representative from JUQS Quality System Certification and Supervision Company LLC Belgrade. The conclusion of the inspection is that, based on the results of the supervisory inspection, the issued certificate Q-2308-IIR valid from 25.12.2020 - 22.07.2023 is in accordance with the ISO 9001:2015 standard and remains valid. The second surveillance inspection of the quality management system will take place in November/December 2022.

5.4. Organizational Strategy for Sustainability 2022-2024.

In December, the Head of the IRO (research, development and sustainability) sector, together with several representatives of regional civil society organizations and led by an expert on the sustainability of civil society organizations held an online training and analysis of operations in the area of sustainability. At the workshop, experiences and new opportunities for generating funds from companies, institutions and citizens were shared. In addition, a special workshop was held to assess the possibilities and conditions for development in the area of sustainability. With the completion of the last workshop, the Head of the IRO sector and the expert finalized the new organizational Strategy for Sustainability 2022-2024.

5.5. Code for civil organizations in Macedonia

PDAS Megjasi actively participated in all meetings of the network for transparency and accountability formed by MCMS with the aim of creating a "code of conduct" for civil society organizations in Macedonia. On September 25, 2021, at the Festival of Civica Mobilitas - "Day

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of Civil Organizations", in the City Park of Shkolka, the president of the organization signed the "Code for Civil Organizations in Macedonia". By creating and signing, Megjashi and other civil society organizations confirm that they will advocate for the implementation of all commitments, standards and principles specified in this document, with the aim of more transparent, accountable and responsible work.

6. PROJECT ON SUPPORT OF CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

"Municipality of Aerodrom - a pioneer in the practice of children's participation"

The project "Municipality of Aerodrom - a pioneer in the practice of children's participation" that the First Children's Embassy in the World Megjashi implements in cooperation and financial support from the budget of the Municipality of Aerodrom, as well as with its own funds and those of other donors, aims to improve children's participation in the municipal operation and decision making.

Children's participation is not only a right in itself, but the practice of children's participation leads to the realisation of other children's rights. While 'participation' can refer to many different aspects of children's engagement in different spheres of everyday life, participation in the context of government is very often considered in relation to Article 12 of the CRC.

Article 12 recognizes the right of the child to be heard and to express his views freely, for the views of children to be taken seriously in the decision-making process and for the authorities to ensure that these rights are respected. More specifically, children's participation can be defined as engaging children (as a group or individuals) to form and express their views and influence matters that affect them, directly or indirectly. The Municipality of Aerodrom expressed an interest in improving cooperation with Megjashi in the field of children's rights, so the idea for this project was born. Until now, no municipality has made a local research of what the children think about which and how many of the children's rights are respected, what they think is a priority to improve the situation, what are the most common problems they encounter, etc.

The main goal of the project is to strengthen the capacities of the municipality of Aerodrom to encourage children's participation in decision-making processes, as the first municipality in Macedonia to conduct research on children's rights, which will be a pioneer in Macedonia and an incentive for all other municipalities in the country. This goal is part of the seventh program goal defined by the Airport Municipality: Promotion of human rights and creation of institutional capacities for their effective protection.

We achieve the goal through the realisation of the following two tasks:

- Implementation of a comprehensive and in-depth investigation of the state of the rights of children up to 18 years of age in the territory of the municipality

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- Preparation of a Report on the situation with children's rights in the Municipality of Aerodrom, and within the framework of the process, training of a group of children on children's rights and strengthening of their skills for advocating for their rights not only before the Municipality but also beyond, which will contribute towards the advancement of democratic processes in the municipality and encouraging children's participation. Promotion to the general public of the Report on the situation with children's rights in the Municipality of Aerodrom
- [Report on the state of the rights of the children on the territory of Municipality of Aerodrom - from children's perspective | PDF \(scribd.com\)](#)

Dynamics of implementation and achieved results

Although with a slight delay in the beginning, the activities are carried out according to the foreseen dynamics and phases. The table below shows the implemented activities and the achieved results.

Activity	Result
Initial meeting with representatives of Municipalities of Aerodrom and representatives of all elementary and high schools on the territory of Municipality	<p>The meeting was held on May 25 2021 in the premises of Municipality of Aerodrom. The representatives of municipal administration - Sector for education, sport, culture and child protection and representatives of 5 elementary schools - Blazhe Koneski, Aleksandar Makedonski, Lazo Angelovski and Aleksandar Makedonski and from one high school - Dimitar Vlahov. At the meeting the project coordinator presented the project, its objectives, the timeframe and the role of the schools.</p>
Survey on the state of the child rights in Municipality of Aerodrom	<p>On June 3, 2021 on Zoom, the first workshop was held with pupils from Dimitar Makedonski, Ljuben Lape and Dimitar Vlahov. This workshop was dedicated to getting to know the rights of the child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the need for research on the situation with the rights of children from the Municipality of Aerodrom and the next steps of the research process. The workshop also included several activities for the pupils to get to know each other.</p> <p>On June 8, 2021 another workshop with the same content was held with the pupils from Alexander Makedonski and Goce Delchev. The workshop had the same purpose and agenda as the previous one.</p>

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After these workshops, the children prepared a proposal of questions for the research of the opinion of the children living in the municipality about how familiar they are with their rights and how much they are respected.

On June 13, a meeting was held to review and close the final questionnaire on children's rights in O. Airport, while on June 28, another meeting was scheduled for the dissemination of the questionnaire to its peers, due to the low response to the survey.

For each child's participation in the research, a Parent/Guardian Consent was prepared for the child's participation in the online survey, which was also online, and based on that consent, the link with the questionnaire was additionally sent to the children. The survey was conducted through the online platform Survey Monkey between June 13 and July 13, 2021.

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Analysis of the state of the children's rights in Municipality of Aerodrom

The total number of children in the sample was 153 children, aged between 9 and 17 years, with most of the children, almost half (47.51%) being between 10 and 11 years old. Children aged 15 (1.41%) and 9 (4.25%) participated the least

According to gender, the female-male ratio was 60%:40%. Most of the examined children are Macedonians by ethnicity - 96%, 2% are Roma and 2% from other ethnic communities. 81% of the examined children are from primary education and 19% from secondary education. Regarding whether they live or only study in the municipality, 83% of the examined children live, that is, 17% only study.

Of those who participated in the research and live in the municipality, the majority are from Lisiche (31%), Gorno Lisiche (17%) and Jane Sandanski (15%). The questionnaire consisted of 55 questions that are divided into 9 sections according to the topic and an additional question at the end of the questionnaire. Most of the questions had offered answers from which one or more could be chosen, but also open ones, to which the children had to give their opinion.

Development of the Report on the state of the children's rights in Municipality of Aerodrom

- Facilitation of an online meeting with pupils - participants in the project, on July 19, 2021. During this meeting, the key findings of the analysis were presented to the pupils and they were given guidelines for the preparation of the report. In addition, the pupils had the opportunity to choose which of the topics they would like to write on, forming small subgroups for each of the topics covered by the research. The pupils discussed and established an appropriate time frame for preparing the report.
- Facilitation of an online meeting with pupils - participants in the project, on September 23, 2021. At this meeting, the pupils were given further guidance on commenting and editing the topics of the report and preparing the second draft of each of the topics.
- During October and November, through the coordinators from the five schools, other pupils were also included to participate with their own drawings for the design of the report.
- The report was printed at the end of December 2021, and during 2022 an attempt will be made to present it to the councillors of the Municipality of Aerodrom's Council.

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7. REACTIONS, REQUESTS, DEBATES, INFORMATION RELEASES, APPEALS, TV GUEST SHOWS, INTERVIEWS...

More important links:

Medium	Type of medium	Date of publishing	Topic	Link
youtube	Own chanel of Megjashi	29.01.2021	Public room: We are here for support, but institutions have to take action	https://youtu.be/KIIDRZcqQXE
Alsat	TV	29.01.2021	Statement related to re-opening of the group “Public room” on Telegram	Hapet sërish grup me foto eksplicite, MPB heton rastin
MTV	TV	04.02.2021	Talk show on “Public room” and sexual harassment and abuse	https://youtu.be/i_1M-N59FWo
TV 24 News	TV	05.02.2021	Interview with Dragi Zmijanac from Megjashi in “Triling” TV talk show	„Јавна соба“ е сајбер и родово базирано насилство. Драги Змијанац за Трилинг ТВ 24
TV Shenia	TV	16.02.2021	Children’s rights and their protection during Covid-19	PARADITE ME NE - FATMIRE AJDARI Ambasada e Parë e Fëmijëve në Botë MEGJASHI – Republika e Maqedonisë

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MIA	Media agencya	23.02.2021	Press conference - Helpline annual report 2020	На СОС-телефонот на „Меѓашки“ лани 240 јавувања, двојно повеќе од годината пред тоа – МИА (mia.mk)
youtube	Own channel of Megjashi	06.04.2021	Do we live in peace? Start of the Megjashi's campaign "Promote peace"	https://youtu.be/m6KMUy31Fys
Morning brief	Media company	07.04.2021	Bitoljanu: We don't succeed to educate the new generations against hatred - Megjashi's campaign "Promote peace"	https://youtu.be/q_uXIVRNfk
TV Telma	TV	09.07.2021	Children are victims of marital relations and that affects their mental health - press conference on Annual helpline's report for 2020	https://youtu.be/9RzGB2F3mes
TV 24 News	TV	04.10. 2021	TV 24 FINDS OUT - THE PHONE OF ONE OF THE ORGANISERS OF THE SEX CAMP HAS BEEN BROKEN	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzurkXzLNX4
TV 24 News	TV	04.10.2021	Scandal with the scouts' sex camp - TV 24 finds out - the phone of the one of organisers has been broken	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm5Jibe9bjA
Klan Macedonia	TV	07.10.2021	HAPPY DAY TË DREJTAT E FËMIJËVE,NË STUDIO FATMIRE AJDARI Ambasada e parë për fëmijë në botë MEGJASHI	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQR9tW2ZfkM&t=294s
Klan Macedonia	TV	07.10.2021	Ambasada e parë për fëmijë në botë MEGJASHI: FUSHATA – TETË RASTE TË KEQPËRDORIMIT TË FËMIJËVE	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4hJCabG2js&t=5s

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Kanal 3 Debar	TV	07.10.2021	Activities of Megjashi in Debar	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGp3b4YWM Mw
youtube	Own channel of Megjashi	07.10.2021	PEace is not just an absence of war	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e30ViFrjOLg
Sloboden pechat	TV	08.10.2021	Velkovska from Megjashi: Stop to children's abuse in political campaigns	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4JdF2ADMCK k&t=10s
ALSAT M	TV/News	12.10.2021	Megjashi reacts to showing children in political campaigns	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LEDSN6fyGX U&t=47s
MTV	TV/Prikazna	20/10/2021	Internet addiction, guest Jordanka Chepernalkova Trajkoska from Megjashi	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D6DQwNCO 5bM&t=783s
youtube	Own channel of Megjashi	20/10/2021	Take responsibility - change the society!	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdqfuRmqzs o
Sitel	TV/News	24/10/2021	Psychologists are warning - violence shall not be an education method	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFJDgRuQYbl &t=11s
TV 24 News	TV/News	24/10/2021	Beating a child by a teacher is impermissible and leaves traumas in the children's memory	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wPuunfjEyeE &t=24s
BTR	TV/Documentary	11.09.2021	Documentary "Big owner"	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xH kkAdHoB !
Sitel	TV/News	11.12.2021	Children are risking their lives searching the trash containers	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qd6odKylCOs &t=179s
youtube	Own channel of Megjashi	20/11/2021	20th November World Children's Day: Let's hear the children's voice!	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wzbeBbx9BN U&t=498s

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Sitel	TV/News	20/11/2021	Problems caused by Covid-19 as the key topic of World Children's Day	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fcMy6Z_42o&t=24s
MTV	TV/News	20/11/2021	Megjashi gave space to children to speak on World Children's Day - November 20	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9oFLeKCsgKY
youtube	Own channel of Megjashi	25/11/2021	Empowering Child's Strengths for Violence Prevention	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOewZ9eOKOA&t=1s
youtube	Own channel of Megjashi	26/11/2021	Recommendations on ethical reporting about children and youth in media developed by the Council for ethics in media and Megjashi	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLSydiSoLbo&t=3648s
youtube	Own channel of Megjashi	28/11/2021	"Since the pandemic started, I feel so tired. Sometimes, I just want to stay in my bed forever."	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yey8vr4WObc&t=1s
youtube	Own channel of Megjashi	12.11.2021	Recommendations on professional report about children and youth in media developed by the Council for ethics in media and Megjashi	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgTtMovAgD4
MTV	TV/Documentary (MTV 4)	12.10.2021	International Human Rights' Day, statement by Dragi Zmijanac	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ps5R7-FBdz8&t=294s
youtube	Own channel of Megjashi	21/12/2021	Civil Society Strengthening	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVfrSmMLHRs

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Flickr		27/8/2021	/	АПЕЛ во врска со прифатот на бегалци од Авганистан: да се ... Flickr
Flickr	/	Септември/ Октомври 2021	Крајно време е политичар(к)ите кои ги злоупотребуваат деца... Flickr Злоупотреба на деца поради политичко дејствување! Злоупотр... Flickr	Злоупотребата на деца во предизборната кампања за жал прод... Flickr Став на Првата детска амбасада во светот МЕГАШИ за актуелн... Flickr