



Country Fact Sheet

The MDG-F in The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	
Joint Programmes: 1	Total Budget: USD 4,000,000
National Steering Committee Members: BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MOFTER), UN Resident Coordinator, Representative of the Government of Spain.	
Joint Programme Information	
Joint Programme	<i>“Enhancing Inter-Ethnic Community Dialogue and Collaboration”</i>
Thematic Window	Conflict Prevention and Peace Building
Budget	USD 4,000,000
Participating Agencies	UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP.
Participating Government Agencies	Secretariat for Implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement; Municipalities of Kicevo, Kumanovo and Struga; Ministry of Culture; Ministry of Education and Science; Bureau for Education Development; State Education Inspectorate; Primary and secondary schools in the selected municipalities; Commission for Relations with the Religious Communities and Faith Groups; University of Ss. “Cyril and Methodius”.
Dates	29 July 2009 – 27 July 2012
Regions of Intervention	National level and Kumanovo, Struga and Kicevo municipalities.
Programme in Brief: The Programme aimed to promote a multi-cultural civic identity within the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, establishing systems to link local and national mechanisms dealing with inter-ethnic relations and building conflict resolution expertise where none exists. The programme focused on improving inter-cultural relations and building an inclusive civic national identity through awareness-raising programmes in schools, and by working with local leaders, civil society and the media to facilitate peaceful co-existence. It also worked with national and local bodies to ensure that decision-making around community priorities is an inclusive process that builds consensus among the country's many different communities.	

Main Achievements

- In an effort to improve inter-ethnic dialogue, the JP created new mechanisms at the local sub-governmental level called peace councils as well as the creation of a quasi-independent body for mediation support. It also created youth educational and cultural programmes, as well as better access to services for minority young people, through the provision of language classes as the language barrier is still an issue for minorities.
- Over a hundred representatives of civil society organizations and community leaders were trained in dispute resolution methodologies.
- Grants were also implemented to enhance inter-ethnic dialogue in universities and in three pilot municipalities. A “Diversity Reporting” handbook was distributed to journalists offering guidelines on how to reflect country’s diversity.
- Inter-ethnic peace building has brought good results, 130 Local Media workers were trained in conflict sensitive reporting, a crucial result, based on the lessons learned of the conflict in the Former Yugoslavia in the 1990s where media propaganda became a tool of war. Moreover, 10 local leaders and activists received training to better address inter-community tensions (in Kicevo, Kumanovo, and Struga).
- Inclusive reporting and intercultural communications gained official accreditation as separate university courses within the School of Journalism and Public Affairs, with 130 journalists trained on inclusive reporting.

More information

<http://www.mdgfund.org/program/enhancinginterethniccommunitydialogueandcollaborationfymacedonia>