

# 2nd Newsletter

October 2024

## Trade Unions-New Impetus for Youth participation

TUNI 2023

### The project TUNI

The European Erasmus+ TUNI project is realized by the partners from 3 sectors - trade union, educational and youth, bringing together actors from 5 countries Europe-wide: North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye and Greece, also having in its informal partnership trade unions from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro in order to reach a wider regional spectrum. It is implemented in the period between January 2023 and December 2024 with the support of the European Commission.

### Objective of the TUNI

The overall objective of the TUNI project is to contribute to building a more democratic and inclusive Europe with genuine participation of youth, focusing on the involvement of young trade-union (TU) activists; the activists in question may be plenty, however they are indeed a neglected sub-category of youth within the society. The intention is to give a new impetus to strengthen the civic activism and participation among the youth all over Europe, engaging young TU members as a new force in articulating the needs and priorities of different youth categories, by empowering them to use their own well-developed organizational structures more actively.

## **The Coordinator of the Project**

The coordinator of the project is Trade Union of Workers of Administration, Judicial Bodies and Citizen's Associations of North Macedonia (UPOZ) was founded in 1991, and apart from 5 employees, it has 6,500 members. It is focused on the protection and promotion of workers' rights, improvement of social dialogue, improvement of material and social status of workers, participation in development of legal documents of importance for workers, as well as activation and education of members, legal help, humanitarian activities, etc. For more than 28 years from its establishment, one of the most important projects of this trade union is Annual Trade Union School. More than 4,000 members of the Trade Union have visited traditional Trade Union School so far, while lecturers at the school have been eminent university professors, judges of the Supreme Court, current and former ministers from the Government and prominent trade union leaders and activists.



## **Latest activities of the TUNI**

### **Study Visit to Brussels Successfully Completed 23-25 September 2024, Brussels**

From September 23 to September 25, 2023, a significant milestone was achieved in the Trade Unions – New Impetus for Youth Participation project, as a study visit took place in Brussels. Organized by the UPOZ Trade Union, the project coordinator, this visit brought together representatives from partner organizations: Youth Development Center and Nezavisnost Trade Union from Serbia, Hizmet-ISH Trade Union from Turkey, Mladi Plus Trade Union from Slovenia, and USB from Greece. These delegates had the unique opportunity to present the outcomes of their research to the Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture at the European Commission, led by Karen Vanderweghe. The discussions also focused on planning the future operations of the Trade Union Academy, a new educational initiative aimed at young trade union members. This meeting highlighted the importance of youth sections and emphasized their increasing involvement in the work of trade unions.

A significant meeting also took place between UPOZ Trade Union President and project coordinator Trpe Deanoski, and Elisa Marzano, the European Commission officer overseeing the TUNI2023 project. The meeting reviewed the project's progress and explored the preparation for a





new application. President Deanoski shared news about the upcoming final conference of the project, scheduled for November 28, 2024, in Skopje, and formally invited Marzano to participate, offering the opportunity to share the European Commission's experience in one of the sessions. The working part of the study visit concluded with a visit to the European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU), which represents 8 million public sector workers across Europe. Consortium representatives learned about EPSU's operations and exchanged best practices. EPSU's commitment to gender equality was particularly highlighted, showcasing their direct actions and negotiations with employers to promote women's rights, which is reflected in their membership, where women are highly represented.

The Trade Unions – New Impetus for Youth Participation project, implemented by UPOZ Trade Union and eight European partners, focuses on increasing the engagement of young people in trade unions through education, training, and information. So far, the project has produced research that explores the reasons for youth inactivity in unions, developed a program for the first Trade Union Academy, and facilitated a study visit to Mladi Plus Trade Union in Slovenia, where valuable positive examples were shared. Additionally, an online campaign is underway to reach and engage as many young people as possible. The project is supported by the European Commission under the ERASMUS+ KA3 – European Youth Together program.

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More information: [www.tunieu.eu](http://www.tunieu.eu)