

BRIDGES OF FRIENDSHIP



DIGITAL BROSHURE WITH RESULTS, STORIES AND METHODS

January – May 2026 | Bitola, North Macedonia

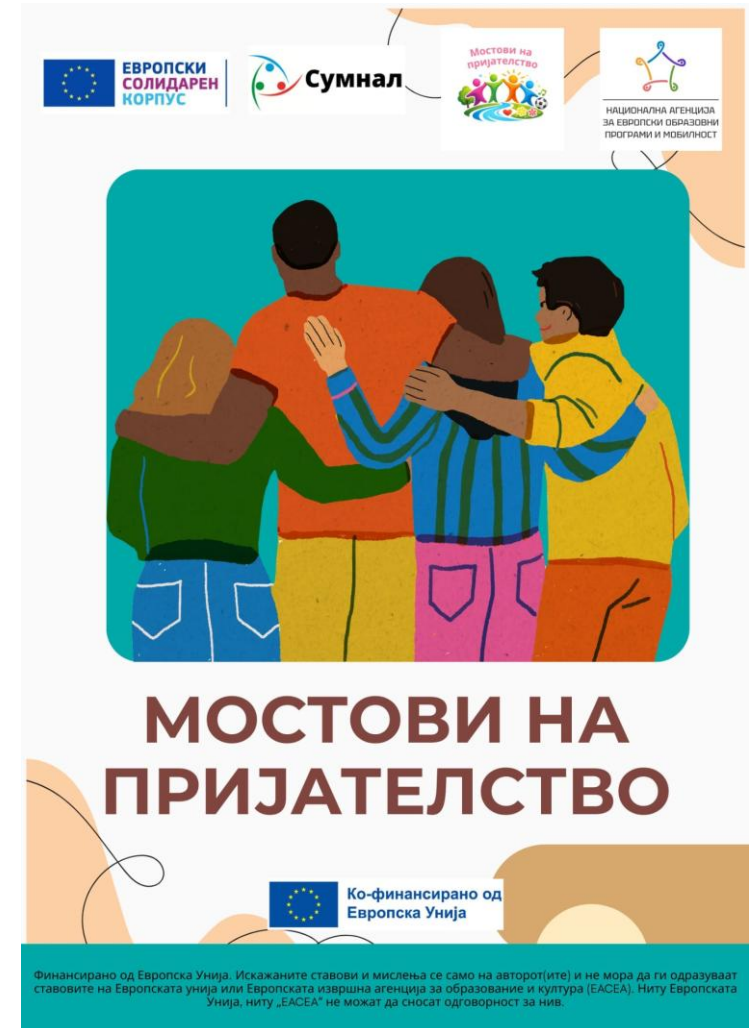
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the European Union**

What is “Bridges of Friendship”?

- ✓ Solidarity project for inclusion, friendship, and intercultural dialogue.
- ✓ Implemented with young people from different ethnic communities in Bitola.
- ✓ Focused on equality, solidarity, active participation, and breaking down prejudice.



Our goals:

- Connecting young people through shared activities.
- Building new friendships and mutual trust.
- Reducing social and ethnic distance.
- Promoting solidarity, inclusion, and youth engagement.



Who was included?

- ❖ 146 direct participants aged 13–15.
- ❖ Mixed groups of Roma youth and young people from other local communities.
- ❖ Approximately 340 indirect beneficiaries, including parents, family members, teachers, mentors, and the local community.
- ❖ 7 teachers, 5 professors, 5 volunteers, one coach, and one project coordinator actively supported the implementation of the project.



PROJECT DURATION

- JANUARY - MAY 2026
- Volunteering team:



Ferzije



Andrea



Leman



Ersin



Derija

What we implemented?

- ✓ 11 thematic activities: 5 interactive workshops, 2 sports activities, and 4 public events.
- ✓ Meetings with stakeholders.
- ✓ Creative, music, dance, and team-building activities.
- ✓ Intercultural Evening, exhibitions in Bitola and Madrid, an inter-school dance competition, and the final dissemination event.



ACTIVITIES AND WORKSHOPS



Infoming the community
January 2026



Meetings with stakeholders, March 2026



First workshop
17.2.2026



Second workshop
26.2.2026



Third workshop
9.3.2026



Fourth workshop
24.3.2026

PUBLIC AND SPORTS EVENTS



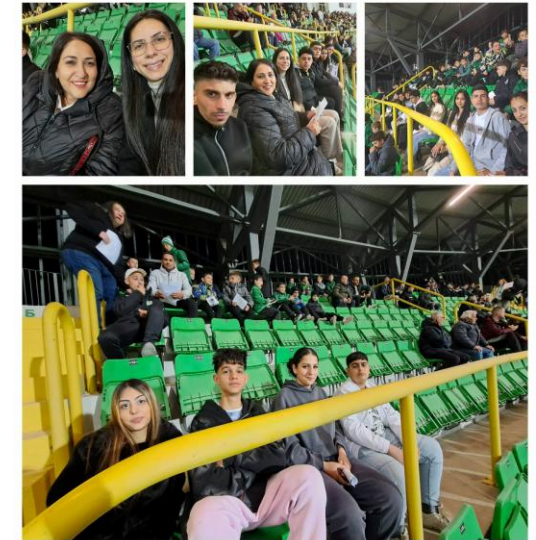
Intercultural evening
9.3.2026



Exhibition of drawings in Madrid,
Spain 28.3.2026



Visiting a handball match
4.4.2026



Visiting a football match
8.4.2026



Art Exhibition and Award Ceremony
14.4.2026



Inter-school dance competition
19.4.2026



Final event
27.5.2026

METHODS: LEARNING THROUGH COLLABORATION

- ✓ Mixed teams: Participants worked with peers they had not previously known.
- ✓ Team games and collaborative challenges: Activities focused on building trust, improving communication, and solving problems together.
- ✓ Peer learning: Young people learned by sharing ideas, experiences, and responsibilities with one another.
- ✓ Youth leadership: Volunteers planned, organised, and facilitated the project activities.



Evaluation results

- ✓ 100% rated the project 4 or 5 out of 5.
- ✓ 100% said they would participate again in a similar project.
- ✓ 94% felt accepted and equally included.
- ✓ 89% made new friendships.
- ✓ 21 baseline questionnaires, 26 final questionnaires and one focus group with 14 participants

Highest-rated activities

Team-building games
Creative workshops
Music activities
Sports activities

Most frequently developed skills

Teamwork
Communication
Self-confidence
Leadership
Intercultural understanding

Stories and Voices of the Participants

- “I learned that despite our differences, we can work together very well.”
- “What I enjoyed the most was socialising and the team activities.”
- “I made new friends and became more confident.”
- “The project helped me understand other people better.”
- “I would like to participate in a project like this again.”



METHODS: ART, SPORTS AND REFLECTION

- Creative expression through drawing, music and dance.
- Sports for inclusion: promoting cooperation, fair play and a sense of belonging.
- Intercultural exchange through traditional food, songs and dances.
- Reflection and evaluation through discussions, questionnaires, focus groups and observation.
- Digital storytelling through photographs, social media posts and personal stories.



OUR IMPACT AND VISIBILITY

- ✓ 146 direct participants and approximately 340 indirect beneficiaries were reached throughout the project.
- ✓ 11 activities and 4 public events were implemented, exceeding the planned project indicators.
- ✓ 59 publications across the project's digital channels and 14 publications in local media increased the project's visibility.
- ✓ Facebook reach: 30,696; Instagram reach: 2,730, with strong engagement and Reel views across both platforms.
- ✓ The project fostered new friendships, greater trust, stronger cooperation, and increased awareness of inclusion among young people from different communities.



What next?

- ❖ Continuation of activities that bring young people together.
- ❖ Use of the project methods in schools and local community initiatives.
- ❖ Development of new youth and volunteering initiatives.
- ❖ Sharing the digital brochure, project results, participant stories, and methods with the wider community.



Thank you!



“Friendship is the strongest bridge.”

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Sumnal - Association for Roma Community Development in North Macedonia
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100094764943949>



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