

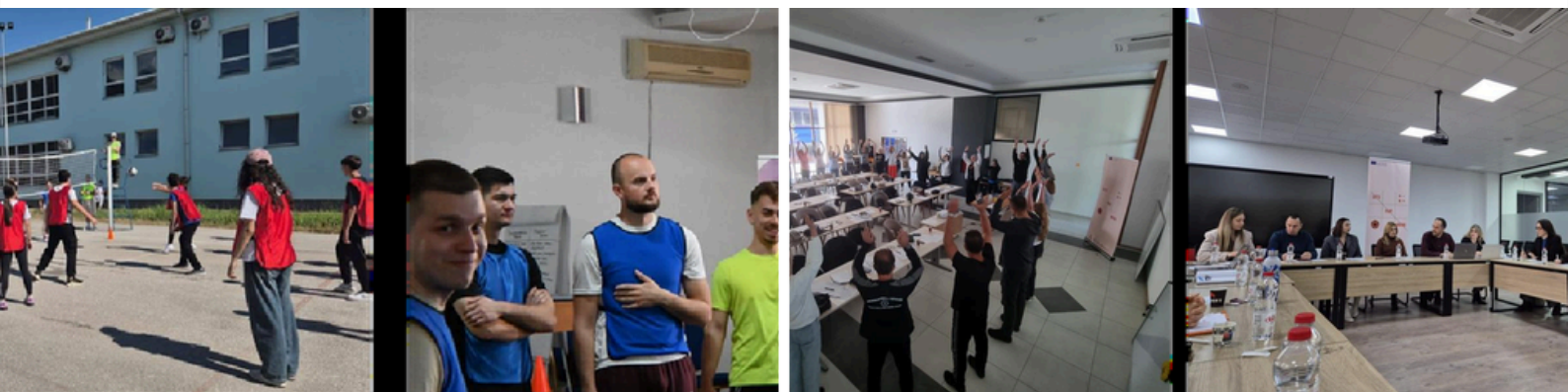
TOGETHER ADVANCING COMMON TRUST

Building resilience, equality and opportunity through sport & education across North Macedonia and the Western Balkans.



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A year of resilience, equality and opportunity

As we reflect on 2025, Together Advancing Common Trust (TAKT) continued to grow as a driving force for social inclusion, youth empowerment, and community development across North Macedonia and the Western Balkans.

Building on the foundations of previous years, our work in 2025 focused on strengthening resilience, promoting equality, and creating practical opportunities for individuals and communities to actively engage in positive social change.

Throughout the year, TAKT implemented a diverse portfolio of projects addressing key societal challenges, including gender inequality, youth employability, environmental sustainability, democratic participation, and healthy lifestyles. Initiatives such as Goal4Equality empowered girls and young women through sport, while Sport GVP contributed to tackling gender-based violence in and through sport by generating knowledge and promoting prevention mechanisms.

A strong focus in 2025 was placed on skills development and future opportunities for young people. Through projects like Play2Employ, we supported youth from rural and disadvantaged backgrounds in developing essential employability competences, combining sport-based learning with practical training and mentorship. At the same time, educational innovation remained a priority, with initiatives such as Let's Play Maths introducing creative, movement-based approaches to learning in primary education.

Health and well-being continued to be central to our work. Through the Back to a Healthy Society (BASE) project, we supported older adults in re-connecting with their communities and adopting more active lifestyles, while broader initiatives promoted physical activity, mental well-being, and social inclusion across different age groups.

At the same time, TAKT strengthened its role in fostering democratic values and social cohesion. Through the SUDECU project, we supported the development of democratic competences among young people and parents, promoting participation, dialogue, and responsible citizenship. In parallel, regional initiatives such as Sport 4 Resilience continued to use sport as a tool for building resilience, addressing discrimination, and supporting inclusive community development among youth in the Western Balkans.

What defined 2025 was not only the diversity of initiatives, but the strong partnerships behind them. By collaborating with local municipalities, educational institutions, civil society organisations, and international partners, TAKT ensured

that its actions were both locally relevant and regionally impactful. These partnerships enabled us to reach a wide range of beneficiaries and to create sustainable approaches that go beyond individual project cycles.

Across all activities, TAKT remained committed to its core mission: using sport and education as tools to promote inclusion, equality, and active participation in society. By empowering individuals

with skills, knowledge, and opportunities, we continue to contribute to stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to expanding our impact, strengthening our partnerships, and continuing to develop innovative approaches that respond to the evolving needs of the communities we serve.



01

GENDER EQUALITY · SPORT

Goal4Equality

DATES

01.06.2024 – 30.04.2025

SUPPORT

FIFA, GIZ — led by LaGilde

Goal for Equality focuses on promoting empowerment through football for girls and women from marginalised communities, using sport as a powerful tool for education, social inclusion, and personal development. The project builds on a strong partnership that aims to leverage football not only as a physical activity, but also as a platform for learning, confidence-building, and community engagement.

Following an analysis of existing initiatives that support the empowerment and inclusion of girls and women through sport, the partnership identified an innovative approach that combines sport-based activities with educational components. Through football sessions, workshops, and community engagement activities, young women will develop both sporting abilities and essential life skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication, and self-confidence.

The project is rooted in the communities it serves, with activities implemented in sports clubs, schools, NGOs, and other local organisations that work directly with young women from marginalised backgrounds. This community-based approach ensures that the activities respond to the real needs and interests of the participants while strengthening local networks and cooperation.

In addition to promoting participation in sport, the project also contributes to improving the overall well-being of young people and their communities. Through training sessions and workshops,

participants will be encouraged to adopt healthier lifestyles, strengthen their mental wellbeing, and become active contributors to positive social change. By empowering young women with knowledge, skills, and opportunities, the project aims to create a new generation of community role models and ambassadors who will inspire others to engage in sport and community initiatives.

Participants will take part in capacity-building workshops and practical activities that will allow them to design and implement their own small-scale initiatives addressing issues relevant to their communities. These initiatives may focus on topics such as promoting healthy lifestyles, tackling bullying and online violence, raising awareness about environmental sustainability, and encouraging active mobility through cycling and walking.

By involving local stakeholders such as schools, youth organisations, sports clubs, and local businesses, the project seeks to strengthen community cooperation and create sustainable opportunities for youth engagement. This collaborative approach will help promote health, well-being, and social inclusion among young people while supporting the development of future youth leaders.

The partners implementing the project are Healthy Life Association – Kinezis and ŽFK Mašinac, organisations with strong experience in youth work, community engagement, and sport-based educational initiatives.



02 Back to a Healthy Society – BASE

DATES

01.02.2023 – 31.07.2025

SUPPORT

Co-funded by the European Union

The project “Back to a Healthy Society (BASE)”, launched in 2023, aims to support older adults in adopting a more active and healthier lifestyle while strengthening their social inclusion within local communities. The initiative addresses the negative consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly affected the physical and mental health of older people and limited their participation in social life. As a result, many older adults now face difficulties reconnecting with their communities and resuming healthy daily habits.

To address these challenges, the project develops innovative approaches that help older people reconnect with society and improve their overall well-being. A central element of the project is a two-step activation model based on a peer-to-peer approach. Active older individuals are trained as local change agents who promote healthy lifestyles within their communities and motivate their peers to become more socially and physically active. These change agents are supported by experienced change mentors, who receive specialised training to guide and assist them in sustaining community-based initiatives.

Through this approach, the project promotes a holistic concept of healthy ageing, combining physical activity, social engagement, and behavioural change strategies tailored specifically to the

needs of older adults. Trainings, workshops, and collaborative activities enable participants to develop the skills and confidence necessary to encourage healthier lifestyles among their peers.

Within the framework of the project, partners have actively collaborated in the development of training programmes for change agents and change mentors. For example, project partners participated in training development activities in Groningen, the Netherlands, and later gathered in Skopje, North Macedonia, to share experiences, present project progress, and discuss the concept of active neighbourhoods and community-based activation of older adults.

The project brings together a strong international consortium consisting of TAKT – Together Advancing Common Trust (North Macedonia) and several European partners: Hanseatic University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), the University of Malaga and the Provincial Government of Malaga (Spain), the Public Health Bureau from Kaunas (Lithuania), Lagom Health Innovations (Portugal), and SPIN Sport Innovation (Germany). Through this collaboration, the project aims to create sustainable methods that empower older adults to reconnect with their communities and enjoy a healthier, more active lifestyle.



03 PEACEBUILDING · YOUTH SCORE

DATES

01.12.2024 – 30.11.2025

SUPPORT

Co-funded by the European Union

SCORE is an international project that uses sport as a powerful tool to promote inclusion, tolerance, and resilience among young people, particularly in regions facing social challenges such as discrimination, exclusion, and radicalisation. The project is based on the understanding that sport can play a key role in fostering social cohesion, strengthening communities, and supporting the development of essential life and psychosocial skills among youth.

The project addresses the growing risk of radicalisation and social fragmentation, especially in the Western Balkans, where diverse cultural, ethnic, and social contexts can sometimes lead to division and exclusion. SCORE responds to these challenges by promoting values such as respect, diversity, and peaceful coexistence through structured sport-based educational activities. As highlighted in the proposal, sport is seen as an effective and innovative approach to engage young people, strengthen their sense of belonging, and prevent negative influences.

Through a comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, the project develops an educational methodology and practical tools that integrate

sport with learning processes. This includes co-creation, testing, and implementation of activities that build resilience, improve social skills, and encourage positive behaviours among young people. The project particularly focuses on equipping coaches, educators, and sport organisations with the capacity to deliver these activities effectively, ensuring long-term impact and sustainability.

SCORE also contributes to broader European and global priorities by aligning with key Sustainable Development Goals, including quality education, sustainable communities, climate awareness, and peacebuilding. By using sport as a platform, the project promotes not only individual development but also community engagement, intercultural dialogue, and social inclusion.

At its core, SCORE recognises sport as an under-utilised but highly effective tool for social change. By empowering young people, strengthening organisations, and fostering collaboration between partners, the project aims to build more inclusive, resilient, and cohesive communities across Europe.



04 REGIONAL · WESTERN BALKANS

Sport4Resilience

DATES

2023 – 2026

SUPPORT

Funded by AFD – Agence Française de Développement

Sport 4 Resilience (S4R) is a regional initiative implemented in Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Montenegro that uses sport and play as tools for education, social cohesion, and youth empowerment. The project is carried out through the cooperation of PLAY International Kosovo, Together Advancing Common Trust (TAKT) from North Macedonia, and Regional Sport Initiative – Playing Together (REGSPO) from Montenegro. Through this partnership, the initiative seeks to strengthen the resilience and psychosocial skills of children and young people across the Western Balkans.

The project focuses on supporting young people in developing essential life skills and building resilience in the face of social challenges such as discrimination, exclusion, and radicalisation. By integrating sport-based learning with educational activities, the programme creates inclusive spaces where children and youth can learn cooperation, communication, empathy, and critical thinking through practical and engaging experiences.

The first phase of the project spans 36 months and is implemented through a combination of formal and non-formal educational activities. In the

formal education strand, the project works with children aged 8 to 12, supporting the development of life skills and encouraging respect for diversity, with particular attention to issues related to gender equality and minority inclusion. These activities are designed to complement national educational priorities and strengthen the role of schools in promoting inclusive values.

The second strand focuses on non-formal education and community engagement, targeting young people aged 15 to 24 and civil society organisations. Through workshops, training activities, and sport-based learning sessions, participants explore topics related to discrimination, identity, and social cohesion, while strengthening their capacity to respond to challenges such as radicalisation and social division.

By combining sport, education, and community engagement, Sport 4 Resilience contributes to creating supportive environments where young people can develop the skills, confidence, and awareness needed to actively participate in their communities and contribute to more inclusive societies in the Western Balkans.



DATES

2023 – 2026

SUPPORT

**Supported by Zurich University of Teacher Education –
International · Funded by Kanton Zürich**

The SUDECU (SUStainable DEMocratic CULTure) project is a three-year competence development programme that aims to anchor democracy and sustainability as elements of everyday culture. The project is implemented in North Macedonia, whose multi-ethnic and multilingual context makes it a relevant environment for strengthening democratic participation and intercultural dialogue.

SUDECU is based on the Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture (RFCDC) developed by the Council of Europe. The project applies the framework's objectives and principles in practice, supporting the development of knowledge, values, skills, and attitudes that are necessary for active participation in democratic societies. At the same time, SUDECU serves as a pilot initiative that explores how democratic culture and sustainability can be strengthened through international education projects and community-based engagement.

A key feature of the project is the use of peer learning as its main implementation approach. The project promotes a shift from traditional knowledge-based learning toward competence-based learning that encourages participants to actively shape their own learning processes. This approach is closely connected with the concept of self-regulated learning, where learners take a proactive role in their development by applying strategies, reflecting on their experiences, and collaborating with others. Within SUDECU, learn-

ing activities are implemented through trained peers who facilitate learning processes among participants. This approach is applied to all target groups, including young people and parents.

The project combines both content-related and process-related components. On the content level, SUDECU focuses on promoting democratic culture, sustainability, and civic engagement, in line with the Council of Europe's vision and the principles of Education for Sustainable Development. On the process level, it introduces participatory and peer-based learning methods that support personal development, cooperation, and active involvement in community life.

Democratic societies require citizens who actively cultivate and practice democratic values in everyday life. Democracy, freedom, and the rule of law are fundamental principles that support peaceful coexistence among people of different cultures, backgrounds, and beliefs. By promoting dialogue, participation, and shared responsibility, the project contributes to strengthening democratic culture and sustainable community development.

Within the framework of SUDECU, parents and young people from Skopje, Kumanovo, and Kriva Palanka will participate in trainings and activities aimed at strengthening democratic competences and civic engagement. Through this programme, the project seeks to initiate innovative local initiatives, encourage long-term engagement, and support the development of peaceful and inclusive societies.



06

EDUCATION · PRIMARY SCHOOL

Let's Play Maths

DATES

01.11.2024 – 31.10.2026

SUPPORT

Co-funded by the European Union

Let's PLAY Maths" focuses on improving how mathematics is taught in primary schools, especially for children aged 6 to 9. The project responds to the difficulties teachers face in explaining basic concepts and the lack of engagement often seen among pupils.

The approach is based on combining mathematics with sport and play, making lessons more interactive and easier to understand. Instead of traditional methods, children learn through movement and practical activities, which helps them stay motivated and more confident when working with numbers.

At the same time, the project supports both future and current teachers. University students training to become primary school teachers work with professors to develop and test new ways of teaching maths, while practising teachers receive training in simple sport-based games that they can use directly in their classrooms.

The overall aim is to make maths learning more accessible for pupils and more practical for teachers to deliver in everyday school settings.





07 EMPLOYABILITY · RURAL YOUTH

Play2Employ

DATES

01.04.2025 – 31.07.2026

SUPPORT

Supported by BOOST Grant

The project “Play2Employ – Building Youth Skills Through Play” aims to improve the social and economic inclusion of marginalized youth in the Western Balkans by strengthening their employability skills through innovative, inclusive, and sport-based educational approaches. The initiative focuses particularly on young people aged 14–18 from rural areas, including students in vocational education and training schools and participants in lifelong learning centres, who often face limited access to career guidance, skill-building opportunities, and social support.

The project uses sport and play as practical tools for learning and personal development, helping young people build key employability competences such as teamwork, communication, problem-solving, resilience, and self-confidence. By combining non-formal education methods with sport-based activities, the project creates engaging and supportive learning environments in which youth can strengthen both their personal and professional capacities.

A central element of the project is the development of a Sport for Employability Toolkit, designed through a collaborative co-creation process involving teachers, youth leaders, and local experts.

The methodology will be tested through pilot activities with young people in each partner country and further improved based on feedback from participants and educators. In addition, a regional training of trainers will be organised to strengthen the capacities of teachers and educators to deliver sport-based employability activities in their local communities.

Through local workshops and educational sessions, the project will directly engage hundreds of young people across Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo, and Montenegro, while also supporting teachers and youth workers to become multipliers of the methodology. In this way, the project contributes not only to the development of youth skills and inclusion, but also to stronger regional cooperation and the creation of sustainable community-based approaches to youth empowerment.

The project is implemented by New Epoch (Albania) as lead applicant, together with TAKT – Together Advancing Common Trust (North Macedonia), PLAY International Kosovo, and Regional Sport Initiative – Playing Together REGSPO (Montenegro).



DATES

01.01.2024 – 31.12.2025

SUPPORT

Co-funded by the European Union

Sport GVP or "Prevention of Gender-Based Violence in and Through Sport", is a comprehensive program that strives to address and prevent gender-based violence in sport!

The "Sport GVP" project aims to contribute to the prevention and handling of gender based violence in and through sports.

The project implemented in N.Macedonia, Greece, Cyprus, Denmark and Italy includes a structured set of activities that want to generate knowledge and data about the prevalence and forms of gender-based violence in sports in the countries where the project is implemented and the search for solutions on how to prevent and deal with violence.

Partners in the project are: EDEX – Educational Excellence Corporation Limited, Cyprus, ISCA – International Sport and Culture Association, Denmark, CESIE, Italy, KMOP – Education & Innovation Hub, Greece, and CARDET – Center for the Advancement of Research in Educational Technology Ltd, Cyprus.





I N I T I A T I V E S

The #BEACTIVEDAY Initiative 2025

The #BEACTIVEDAY initiative for 2025 delivered outstanding results, reinforcing its impact across Macedonia. This year, we successfully organized over 100 events in more than 55 schools and municipalities, engaging over 8,000 participants. Through these activities, we fostered a culture of physical activity and well-being, inspiring communities to embrace an active and healthy lifestyle.

100+

EVENTS ORGANISED

55+

SCHOOLS & MUNICIPALITIES

8,000+

PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED



Toolkits, handbooks & research

LET'S PLAY MATHS

Let's PLAY Maths – Learning Mathematics Through Play and Sport

This series consists of four educational videos presenting the four interactive games developed within the Let's PLAY Maths project. The games combine mathematics, physical activity and play to help children aged 6–9 strengthen their mathematical knowledge and develop a more engaging and positive approach to learning mathematics. The videos demonstrate how the activities can be organised and implemented, providing teachers and educators with practical examples for introducing mathematical concepts through movement, teamwork and sport.

[Video 1](#)[Video 2](#)[Video 3](#)[Video 4](#)

Let's PLAY Maths Handbook

This handbook is a practical resource for teachers and educators implementing mathematics-based educational activities with children in Grades 1–3. It presents the Let's PLAY Maths training programme, certification requirements, educator competencies, field-observation guidance and links with the primary education curriculum. The handbook includes four ready-to-use interactive sessions combining physical activity and mathematics, covering counting and equivalence, addition and mental calculation, tens and place value, and measurement. Each session provides objectives, required materials, setup instructions, rules, variations, teaching tips and recommendations for follow-up classroom activities.

[Document Link](#)

Closing the Gap: Final Reflections and a Vision for the Future – Sport GVP

A concluding publication summarising the main findings, experiences and impact of the two-year Sport GVP project. It reflects on the prevalence and underreporting of gender-based violence in sport, the institutional and cultural barriers identified through the research, and the value of the project's toolkit, training resources and e-learning platform. It also presents a future vision in which safeguarding becomes embedded in the everyday governance and operation of sport organisations.

[Document Link](#)

Intersectionality: A Vital Component for Tackling Gender-Based Violence in Sport – Sport GVP

The document explains how gender-based violence can be intensified by intersecting factors such as ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, economic status, religion and refugee or migration background. Drawing on findings from different European countries, it calls for inclusive policies, improved reporting systems and training that recognises the different vulnerabilities experienced by marginalised athletes.

[Document Link](#)

Sport as a Catalyst for Policy Reform on Gender-Based Violence – Sport GVP

This article explores how sport can contribute to policy and institutional reform addressing gender-based violence. It discusses the role of sport organisations, federations, public institutions and advocacy actors in introducing zero-tolerance policies, safeguarding standards, reporting mechanisms and stronger accountability within sport.

[Document Link](#)

Building Sustainable Partnerships for Long-Term Change – Sport GVP

The publication explains why the long-term prevention of gender-based violence requires cooperation between sport organisations, policymakers, schools, civil society organisations, health professionals, legal services and local communities. It covers awareness campaigns, institutional and cross-sector partnerships, internal capacity building, monitoring and the creation of trained GBV focal persons or expert teams within sport organisations.

[Document Link](#)

Empowering Young Voices: Youth Participation in Tackling GBV – Sport GVP

This article focuses on the role of young athletes as advocates, leaders and changemakers in preventing gender-based violence. It highlights youth-led campaigns, peer influence, digital advocacy and participation in decision-making, while emphasising that young people need safe spaces, training, mentorship and genuine opportunities to help shape safeguarding policies and solutions.

[Document Link](#)

Towards a Safer Future: Goals and Vision for Sport GVP

This article presents the Sport GVP project's vision for safer, more equitable and inclusive sporting environments. It outlines key priorities, including zero tolerance for gender-based violence, mandatory training, survivor-centred support, confidential reporting, data collection, education, bystander intervention, independent oversight and stronger organisational accountability.

[Document Link](#) ➤

Policy Advocacy: Driving Systematic Change in Sport GVP

The publication examines how advocacy can turn awareness of gender-based violence into lasting institutional and systemic change. It emphasises the need for stronger policies, coordinated stakeholder action, evidence-based recommendations, organisational accountability and engagement with decision-makers so that safeguarding becomes part of formal sport governance rather than a temporary project activity.

[Document Link](#) ➤

Overcoming Obstacles: Challenges and Solutions in Sport GVP

This article examines the main barriers to preventing and responding to gender-based violence in sport across several European countries. These include limited knowledge, weak leadership, policy gaps, underreporting, cultural attitudes and inadequate support mechanisms. It also presents possible culturally sensitive and systemic solutions for creating safer and more inclusive sporting environments.

[Document Link](#) ➤

SCORE

SCORE – Sport Connects Against Radicalization in Europe: Project Impact Analysis

This report assesses the implementation and results of the SCORE project in Kosovo, North Macedonia and Montenegro. It explains the project's intervention logic, the development of a sport-based pedagogical toolkit, the training of educators and youth workers, the delivery of activities with young people and the resulting changes in attitudes, confidence, tolerance and capacity to respond to discrimination and radicalisation. It also presents participant feedback, quantitative results, sustainability measures, lessons learned and recommendations for scaling the methodology.

[Document Link](#) ➤

GOAL4EQUALITY

Goal 4 Equality Toolkit

A practical resource focused on improving gender equality and strengthening the participation, visibility and opportunities of women and girls in sport, particularly football. It discusses existing inequalities and barriers experienced by women, presents examples and approaches from the sport sector, and offers practical guidance and recommendations that clubs, organisations and other stakeholders can use to create more inclusive and gender-responsive sporting environments.

[Document Link](#)

PLAY2EMPLOY

PLAY2EMPLOY – Empower Through Play: A Guide for Educators

This handbook is designed to support educators in using sport and play to strengthen the employability and life skills of young people aged 15–18, particularly students in vocational education and training schools. It introduces the Playdagogy methodology, the training and certification process, ten key social, emotional and cognitive life skills, educator competencies, safety and inclusion principles, and tools for observing and assessing activities. The handbook also contains six ready-to-implement sessions addressing communication, self-awareness, critical thinking, problem-solving, cooperation, digital skills, CV and email preparation, and other competencies relevant to young people's transition into the labour market.

[Document Link](#)