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Organización
de las Naciones Unidas
para la Educación,
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Организация
Объединенных Наций по
вопросам образования,
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、
科学及文化组织

Regional Literacy Conference Addressing “*Literacy Challenges
in Europe with a sub-regional focus:*”

Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches.

(Baku, Azerbaijan, 14-16 May 2008)

“Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER)”



United Nations Literacy Decade

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

Presented at the UNESCO Regional Conference in Support of Global Literacy "Addressing Literacy Challenges in Europe with a sub-regional focus: Building Partnerships and Promoting Innovative Approaches", 14-16 May 2008, Baku, Azerbaijan

Programme name: Youth Peer Education Network (Y-PEER)

Implemented by: UNFPA

Basic facts

Country: Macedonia

Starting year: 2003

Outreach: Approximately 20.000 youth annually

Target Population: Mainstream young people, as well as young people at risk (including young Roma, sex workers, drug injectors, MSM, PLWHA, youth out of the educational system and youth in institutions)

Language of instruction: Macedonian, Albanian, Roma language

Operating in: network of volunteers all over the country

Main Funding: UNFPA

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Brief Description

Y-PEER, the "Youth Peer Education Network", is an international youth-to-youth based network pioneered by UNFPA and supported on regional and national levels by a number of partners.

The Y-PEER Network is implemented by youth from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East, North and East Africa, and was recently initiated in Brazil; more than 5.000 members from 36 countries are linked. Y-PEER is based on inter-personnel communication through meetings, electronic communications via interactive Web-sites, and national and international listservs. The Network offers opportunities also to include computer-based distance learning courses,

sponsors annual national and international training events, campaigns, workshops, and video-conferences; and produces tools related to peer education, youth-adult partnerships, 'edutainment,' and youth advocacy.

Y-PEER aims to promote a healthy life style through peer to peer approach and to empower young people to make responsible decisions.

Y-PEER Macedonia is part of the international Youth Peer Education Network. The Network in Macedonia officially comprises 13 organizations that promote youth participation and awareness of health issues, including HIV/AIDS. They provide information about prevention, PEER recruits and trains young educators and trainers who undertake informal or organized educational activities with their peers. The NGOs that are working with people at risk are reaching out to the youth age group (14-25 years) and are working with adults as well.

The Network employs peer education as a methodology for information sharing. Various inclusive techniques are used on all levels of training and field work. The immediate impact of the activities in Y-PEER Macedonia is measured through pre- and post questionnaires completed by the participants.

In order to promote healthy lifestyles widely, Y-PEER partners with MTV Staying Alive, Dance-Life, with local and regional celebrities, and develops innovative and youthful initiatives with full participation of its members.

Y-PEER aims at young people participating in a meaningful way in decision taking related to their health in order for them to have equal access to information and services to live a healthy, content life.