

# E-accessible education in Macedonia and Serbia

The project fosters the inclusion of students with disabilities in mainstream primary education in Macedonia and Serbia. It introduces assistive technology, including e-accessible textbooks and educational applications, into mainstream instruction, and strengthens the capabilities of public schools.

«Without assistive technology, my daughter would have never learnt how to read and write.» (mother of a student)

## e-Accessible Education

- Organisation:** Open the Windows and Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation
- Country/region of origin:** Macedonia
- Beneficiaries targeted:** Children with disabilities
- Approach/model/solution:** Capacity building, advocacy

## FACTS & FIGURES

- Launched in 2010 in Macedonia and funded by USAID
- 31 mainstream primary schools in Macedonia provided with equipment, software and training
- Over 200 children with disabilities benefited
- 20 primary school textbooks made available in e-accessible format
- The project won the ERSTE Foundation Social Integration Award for 2013

## PROBLEMS TARGETED

Inclusion and active participation of children with disabilities in mainstream primary education; capacity of educational institutions such as primary schools to offer individualised services to their students with disabilities based on using modern technologies.

## PROJECT

The e-Accessible Education Project introduced assistive technology into mainstream primary schools in the country: schools were equipped with assistive computer peripherals (e.g. big-button keyboards, trackballs, etc.) and over 300 teachers were trained in using assistive technology in their work with students with disabilities.

## CURRENT SITUATION & OUTLOOK

The Macedonian experience will be the starting point in introducing assistive technology in mainstream primary education in Serbia. In 2014, the model will be piloted in six primary schools in the Novi Sad area; this initiative is led by EHO (Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization). In addition to the provision and installation of assisted technology in selected schools, teacher training, localization of educational software in Serbian and production of the first e-accessible textbooks, the project aims to produce a policy paper calling for the widespread and systematic use of assistive technology in mainstream education in Serbia. Cooperation and exchange will be facilitated between the relevant institutions from Macedonia and Serbia.



*The e-Accessible Education Project introduced assistive technology into mainstream primary schools.*

**CONTACT** Ms. Tamara BLAGOJEVIC  
 EHO | <http://resursnicentar.ehons.org>  
 Novi Sad, Serbia | [tamarab@ehons.org](mailto:tamarab@ehons.org)  
 Mr. Vladimir LAZOVSKI  
[www.openthewindows.org](http://www.openthewindows.org) | Skopje, Macedonia  
[vladimir.lazovski@openthewindows.org](mailto:vladimir.lazovski@openthewindows.org)

## EXPERT VOTING



- Top marks from:
- all voters, CEE and NGO voters
- Top marks for:
- targeting the Global South
  - access to ICT
  - targeting the blind and deaf

Nominated by: Joanna KINBERGER, Diakonie Austria