



## FECH's 2022 in perspective

As 2022 is coming to an end, we are reflecting upon what the year brought to the Forum for Educational Change and how FECH developed in response to various opportunities and challenges. In this annual report, we highlight the key activities and results of FECH for 2022, with an eye to what we take with us and will further enhance in 2023.

In 2022 a lot happened in terms of the organizational development of FECH, with:

- Kindly welcoming our respected new Advisory Board members (Vlora Recica, Emir Hasanovic, Petar Atanasov, and Agon Memedi)
- Adopting **#DEVSTRA2025** and the **Work Plan 2025** during our second General Assembly on January 2022.
- Established the Erasmus+ department within the organization to set the basis for working on the field of Erasmus+ projects.
- Adopted the new structural organizational vision for FECH by introducing the black box and start-up concept of working.
- Applied to the European Endowment for Democracy - EED with the project "Beyond Activism". The project was approved by EED on July 2022.

During the first quarter of the year, FECH managed to pressure the University of Tetovo to publish its statute (public document) that never appeared in the public eye in the last four years. Furthermore, in March-April 2022, FECH helped the students of the Faculty of Arts organize protests against a scandal that occurred with their professor Besiana Memedi. The protests and boycotts resulted in the University of Tetovo taking some measures such as penalization against the professor.

- On February 2022, **FECH got certified as a Global Responsible Organization** by the Danish United Nations Association and other partner organizations in the Global Goals 2030. As FECH, we pledge to promote global citizenship, to adopt responsible behavior towards the environment, to engage with the local community, to promote a healthy lifestyle and well-being, to create an inclusive environment and promote respect for Human Rights, to create a democratic and participatory environment within the organization.



In line with our priorities for ***empowering the students' parliaments and associations (SPA)***, FECH coordinated a multi-level lobbying effort to solve the financial support for student meals (студентски оброк), a compromise was reached during the negotiations with high-level representatives of the Government and Parliament on November 14th, 2022.

On International Students Day (November 17th), FECH with SPAs co-organized a student protest in Skopje, to vocalize their needs and problems to the public opinion.

In 2022, we continued our cooperation with countless partners that share our vision and interests in Higher Education such as Student parliaments & associations whereas we signed MoUs with UKIM and SEEU. Moreover, we also strengthened our cooperation with many other partners from Albania and Kosovo (Qendresa Qytetare and ORCA) where we participated as guest speakers to their Students Congress in Prishtina (May 2022) and Tirana (November 2022)

Together with ***CET Platform Macedonia*** we organized a three-day youth project in Krusevo on the topic of **Stronger Together - Ethnicity**. The project involved a program that trained 22 young people from 18 to 30 years old from different ethnic backgrounds about the concepts of intercultural learning and human rights with a focus on peacebuilding.

We contributed to the public consultations of the Agency of Youth and Sport on drafting the framework for the **National Youth Strategy 2023-2027**.

- **2022 was a transformational year** for our projects as well, where FECH got the first project “Beyond Activism” approved by EED on July 2022. As part of the funds from EED, FECH opened the first-ever Youth Activism Center in Tetovo. The spaces of YAC serve as a gravitational field for youth activism in Tetovo and Polog region. The opening of the FECH offices and the Youth Activism Center is the main accomplishment. YAC is the first youth center in the municipality of Tetovo to provide a free space where young people can spend time for various purposes. The offices of the organization serve as a **Youth Activism Center - YAC** for youngsters to have a space to implement their activities. Additionally, FECH offices are available to different NGOs who lack the space to carry out their activities.

FECH has signed a contract with the Educational Youth Forum where we offer them the spaces of the FECH to implement their debate and journalism clubs. In addition, we



cooperated with the Union of Journalists of North Macedonia for the organization of training on the rights of journalists at the premises of the FECH.

The year was also productive in terms of policy writing! FECH's Board approved, during the year the first policy brief: "YOUTH=DECISION-MAKERS" of the organization that came as a result of numerous fishbowl discussions organized in Tetovo, Skopje, and Gostivar. While another comprehensive research on the efficiency of student parliaments is underway and planned to be published in the first quarter of 2023.

In 2022, Forum for Educational Change has been several times part of the media in North Macedonia and Albania, contributing to topics mainly related to Higher education and youth participation in the country, especially during the grand opening of the FECH offices & Youth Activism Center where all the national TV and media have followed the event.

**In 2022 we have learned and improved, and we are looking forward with hope and enthusiasm to a prosperous and safe 2023.**