



**Place to grow:**  
Child-friendly municipalities



## The place to grow up through children's eyes and local experiences

Within the framework of the project “Place to Grow: Child-friendly municipalities”, KMOP Skopje implemented a series of activities aimed at increasing visibility, in order to strengthen the voice of children, promote their rights and encourage their active participation in decision-making – especially at the local level.

In this regard, video podcasts were realized with 19 children, as well as video testimonies were recorded with 7 representatives from the municipalities of Veles, Vinica, Debar, Gostivar and Kisela Voda.

### Children Speak: A Happy Place to Grow Up

Children have something to say, and adults listen!

Small and big stars from five municipalities took the microphone and shared their truth.

❖ Ivana, Ana Todorova, Ana, Erika and Oleg from Vinica; Dion, Anika, Ana and Damjan from Gostivar; Matej, Leona and Antonia from Kisela Voda; Kristijan, Jana, Mihail and Izabela from Veles; and Vedija, Edina and Merdžiza from Debar – discussed the most important things, why the voice of children is important, what their rights are and what they want their municipality to look like.

Their stories carry powerful titles:

- Gostivar: “Our Voice” (“Zëri jonë”) – a voice that connects and inspires
- Vinica: “Terkota” – the rhythm and liveliness of childhood
- Kisela Voda: “Same but not in frame” (“Isti, no ne vo raka”) – diversity and acceptance
- Veles: “Architecture of childhood” – every child a builder of their own world
- Debar: “Small but loud” – proof that every voice has power

The children chose the topics, asked questions, led conversations and created the messages they wanted adults to hear – from their perspective, in their own words.

The podcasts are full of inspiration, honesty and ideas for a better tomorrow – and that is why they are worth listening to [here!](#)





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## Video testimonials

In order to **exchange experiences and promote good practices**, as well as to enable other local governments to be inspired and apply successful approaches, video interviews were conducted with representatives of local governments involved in the project.

Through these interviews, they shared their personal insights, experiences and good practices developed during the project, speaking about:

- ✓ The positive changes they have noticed in the community,
- ✓ The most important aspects of involving children in local planning,
- ✓ How the project has changed their view on children's rights and participation,
- ✓ The challenges they have faced and the ways in which they have overcome them,
- ✓ Advice and recommendations for other municipalities that want to involve children in decision-making processes.



## Call to action

Through these promotional content, a clear call was made to all stakeholders – to continue supporting and developing initiatives that focus on children, to translate inspiration into concrete steps and policies, and to create environments in which children's voices are heard, respected and taken into account in decision-making.

Such ways of involving children and adults offer authentic insights and strong messages from children themselves and local actors, thereby raising awareness and contributing to the creation of environments tailored to each child.



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