



Republic of North Macedonia, Ministry of Education and Science
The Skills Development and Innovation Support Project
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CONTRACT FOR PERFORMANCE AUDIT FOR THE GRANT PROGRAM FOR ENHANCING
THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN SCHOOLS AND BUSINESS COMMUNITY, No. 018-
16/4.2.1

FOLLOW UP SURVEY REPORT

on Citizen's engagement in the preparation of the Grant Program for enhancing the
collaboration between the schools and business community

Implementation: September, 2019 to June 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document presents the analysis of the follow up survey data on Citizen's engagement in the preparation of the Grant Program for enhancing the collaboration between the schools and business community implemented by the Republic of North Macedonia's Ministry of Education and Science (MOES) through the Skills Development and Innovation Support Project (World Bank Loan 8332 MK). The activities related to the Grant program are anticipated under Component 2, Sub component 2.2 of the project which supports provision of School Grants to selected TVET schools for financing activities to improve the labor market relevance of the vocational education and training including involving industries into the practical training delivery (Project Appraisal Document, 2013)¹ and furthermore explained in details in Operational Manual for implementing the Grant program for enhancing the collaboration between the schools and business community, (2019)².

The objective of the grant program as described in the revised Operational Manual for the Grant Program (hereinafter GOM) is to:

- increase the number of secondary vocational school students that benefit from practical training in/or provided by small and medium-size enterprises (SME) and large sized firms, as well as
- increase the quality of the practical training by providing financial support for implementation of the various models of engaging vocational schools/enterprises in practical vocational training and identifying the most successful models.

More specifically, the overarching purpose is to:

- increase the number of students who, through exposure to highly quality practical training, acquire technical and socio-economic skills (including entrepreneurship

¹ Available at:

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/175281468299184602/pdf/805820PAD0P128010Box382111B000U0090.pdf>

² Available at

http://mon.gov.mk/images/%D0%9E%D0%BF%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B8%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BD_%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%87%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA.pdf

skills) to better prepare them for the world-of-work and therefore improve their employability after graduation.

After the comprehensive program evaluation that was performed after the implementation of the pilot phase in 2017, the Ministry of education and science has revised the program design and introduced 3 (three) Grant measures instead of initially designed 5 grant measures.

The Ministry of Education and Science in 2019 launched the third call for a Grant program for enhancing the cooperation between the business community and VET schools in Republic of North Macedonia. The VET schools and business partners applied with project proposals for 3 (three) Grant measures i.e.

- Grant measure 1: Setting up a school company within the VET school through business guidance and mentoring (business mentoring relationship). Maximum size per grant for this Grant measure is at 30.000 EUR.
- Grant measure 2: Placement of students in practical training in companies. Maximum size per grant for this Grant measure is at 10.000 EUR.
- Grant measure 3: Establishment of the problem based learning courses for enhancement of soft skills. Maximum size per grant for this Grant measure is at 10.000 EUR.

The evaluation of the received grant application resulted with the award of the 9 grants for respective TVET schools and business partners out of which

- 3 Grants under Grant measure 1
- 3 grants under Grant measure 2 and
- 3 grants under Grant measure 3.

The list of selected schools and business partners is provided in Annex 1 of this document.

In order to contribute to the approach for mainstreaming citizen engagement in the WBG-supported operations, defined in the Strategic Framework for mainstreaming citizen engagement³, the Ministry of education and science in 2019 implemented a baseline

³ Available at

<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/266371468124780089/Strategic-framework-for-mainstreaming-citizen-engagement-in-World-Bank-Group-operations-engaging-with-citizens-for-improved-results>

survey aimed towards measuring the citizen engagement indicator for the Grant program in order to meet the three requirements established in the above referenced Strategy, as follows:

- Project design must be citizen-oriented, i.e., having at least one mechanism to engage with beneficiaries in the specific context of the project;
- Projects' results frameworks must include a beneficiary feedback indicator to monitor citizen engagement throughout project implementation; and
- Projects must report on the beneficiary feedback indicator by the third year of implementation.

The baseline study report on citizen engagement prepared in July 2019 revealed that student engagement rates are very high in all phases including participation in development of the project idea (94%), selection of topics (84%) and selection of methods for implementation of the practical training (87%) and also disclosed high satisfaction rates of the students with their engagement in: preparation of idea for the practical training (95%), selection of topics for practical training (87%) and in selection of methods for implementation of the practical training (91%).

The study also found that 83% of students that participated in the Grant Program are satisfied with their engagement during grant preparation – that is a baseline indicator established in the SDIS Project Result Framework.

This report presents the findings from follow up survey for students' engagement related to the preparation of the Grant Program for enhancing the collaboration between the schools and business community implemented through the WB SDIS project. The report is organized as follows: section 2 presents the survey design, methodology and data collection whereas section 3 provides analysis of the data. The section 4 contains the conclusions.

2. SURVEY DESIGN, METHODOLOGY AND DATA COLLECTION

The same survey design, methodology and data collection methods as implemented during the baseline survey has been adopted for follow up survey. This is very important in order ensure the comparison between the data from both survey rounds (baseline and follow up) on equal grounds.

The survey was methodologically designed to measure the citizen engagement indicator as established by the Ministry of education and science in the SDIS project result framework that is as follows: *"Percentage of students that participated in the Grant Program satisfied with their engagement during grant preparation"*. However, considering that preparatory phase includes various stages we have designed the survey to include the question related to the core indicator established in the Framework but also we have introduced other questions that will assist to distinguish between the students' engagement and the satisfaction of the students' engagement in different stages that were identified as follows

- *engagement opportunities and satisfaction of engagement opportunities during development of project idea;*
- *engagement opportunities and satisfaction of engagement opportunities in identification of project topics*
- *engagement opportunities and satisfaction of engagement opportunities in design of forms for delivery of project activities;*

The questioner anticipated 11 questions out of which 3 relates to the identification of the respondents per TVET school, school year and gender whereas other 8 questions relate to answering whether the student was engaged in the development of the idea for practical training, identification of the topics for practical training, in the design of the forms (methods) for delivery of practical training or engaged in any other phase of the preparation as well as the satisfaction of the involvement in each referenced stage. The students were asked to answer on each question by selecting "yes", "no" option. The questioner has been designed to measure the involvement and satisfaction of the students by selecting two possible yes/no options rather than to use some advanced techniques as scalable answers (from 1 very unsatisfied to 5 very satisfied) due to the initial

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predetermined indicator in the Result framework that required the result to be presented as percentage (%) meaning that we needed to work with measuring the frequencies of answers⁴.

For this survey we have designed a representative sample by using a multistage cluster sampling. Total sample size equal to 221 students same sampling size as for the baseline survey, that is app. 22% of all students that will benefit the practical training. The table 1 below includes total number of students that benefited practical training from the Grant program per VET school, proposed sample size and response rate:

⁴ *"Percentage of students that participated in the Grant Program satisfied with their engagement during grant preparation"*

Table 1 proposed sample size and response rate

		Sample size						
	TVET SCHOOL	Sample size 2nd year	Sample size 3rd year	Sample size 4 th year	Total (SAMPLE)	Response rate	Total no. of students included in the project	% (responses over total number of stakeholders involved)
	Grant measure 1							
1	ASUC Boro Petrusovski, Skopje	17	16	0	33	33	149	22.1
2	SOU Car Samoil, Resen	5	5	5	15	15	65	23.1
3	SUGS Marija Kiri Sklodovska, Skopje	23	20	20	63	63	300	21.0
	Subtotal 1:				111	111	514	21.6
	Grant measure 2							
4	SGGU Zdravko Cvetkovski, Skopje	0	45	0	45	40	206	19.4
5	SOU Gorce Petrov, Kriva Palanka	5	10	10	25	25	125	20.0
6	SOU Taki Daskalo, Bitola	5	5	5	15	15	52	28.8
	Subtotal 2:				85	80	383	20.9
	Grant measure 3							
7	SOU Taki Daskalo, Bitola	0	5	5	10	10	39	25.6
8	SOZU Kuzman Shapkarev, Bitola	4	4	2	10	10	40	25.0
9	SOU Josif Josifovski, Gevgelija	4	4	2	10	10	40	25.0
	Subtotal 3:				30	30	119	25.2
	TOTAL				226	221	1016	21.8

The data collection was carried out from December 15th to January 10th, 2020 through dissemination of the paper questioners to the sampled respondents in each TVET school. All collected data was transferred into SPSS database, and the logical control of data was carried out. This control was based on the analysis of logical connection between respondent's answers. This type of control applied to the whole sample. The database is provided to the Ministry of education and science in SPSS format.

3. DATA ANALYSIS

3.1 Demographic characteristics

Out of all interviewed respondents

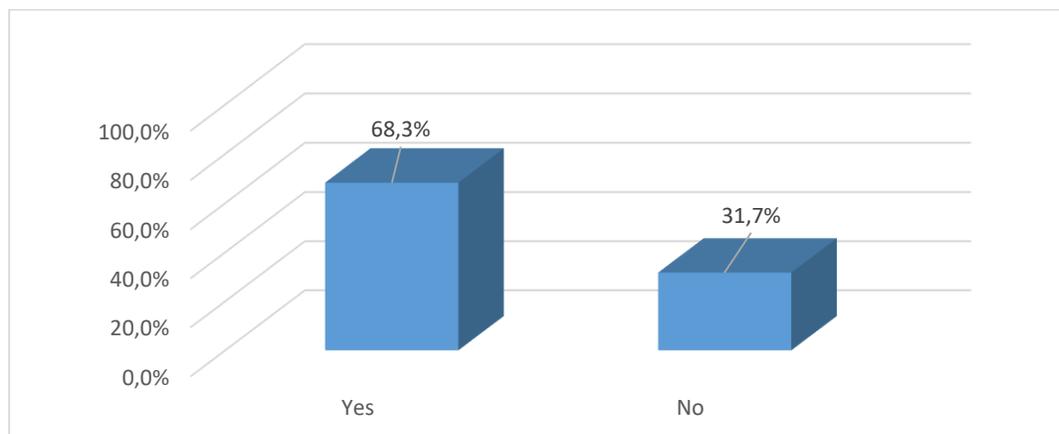
- 57% are males and 43% are females;
- 48% are enrolled in the 3rd year of studying, 29% in the second year of studying and 23% in the fourth year of studying
- 50% of the respondents will benefit practical training from the Grant projects awarded under the Grant measure 1; 36% of the respondents will benefit practical training from the Grant projects awarded under the Grant measure 2 and 14% of the respondents will benefit practical training from the Grant projects awarded for Grant measure 3;

3.2 Engagement and satisfaction of the students

Engaged in development of project idea for practical training during grant preparation and satisfaction

68.3% of the students reported that they were involved by the school in the process for development of the idea for practical training that was further on conveyed in the project proposal and application for the respective grant measure whereas 31.7% were not involved in the development of the project idea. (Figure 1)

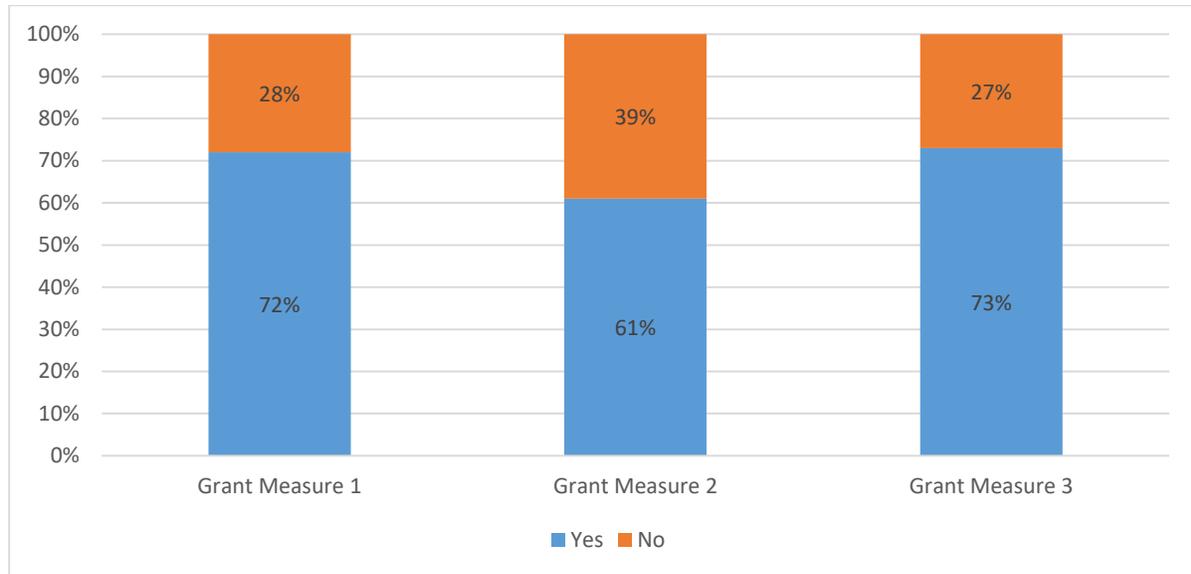
Figure 1 - Percentage of students that participated in development of the project idea during grant preparation



Source: Authors calculation

The analysis showed that out of all sampled respondents, app. 3/4 participated in the development of the project idea during grant preparation for Grant measure 1 and 3 whereas this is valid for 3/5 of the students that reported that they participated in the development of the project idea during grant preparation for Grant measure 2. (Figure 2)

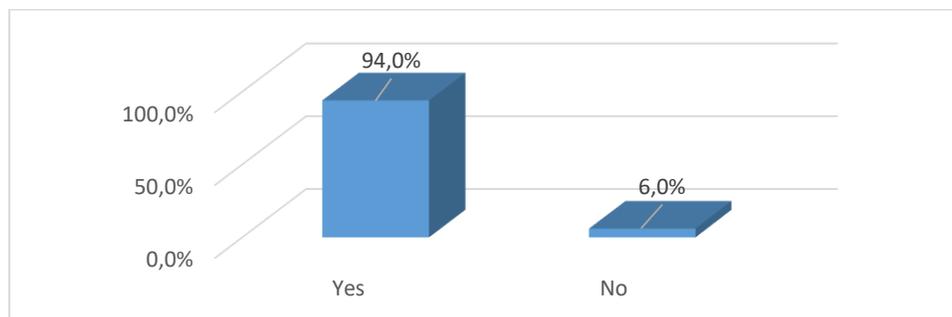
Figure 2 - Percentage of students that participated in development of the project idea during grant preparation per Grant measure.



Source: Authors calculation

94% of the students that participated in the Grant program are satisfied with their engagement in the development of the project idea during grant preparation whereas 6% are not satisfied. (Figure 3).

Figure 3 - Percentage of students that participated in the Grant Program satisfied with their engagement in development of the project idea during grant preparation

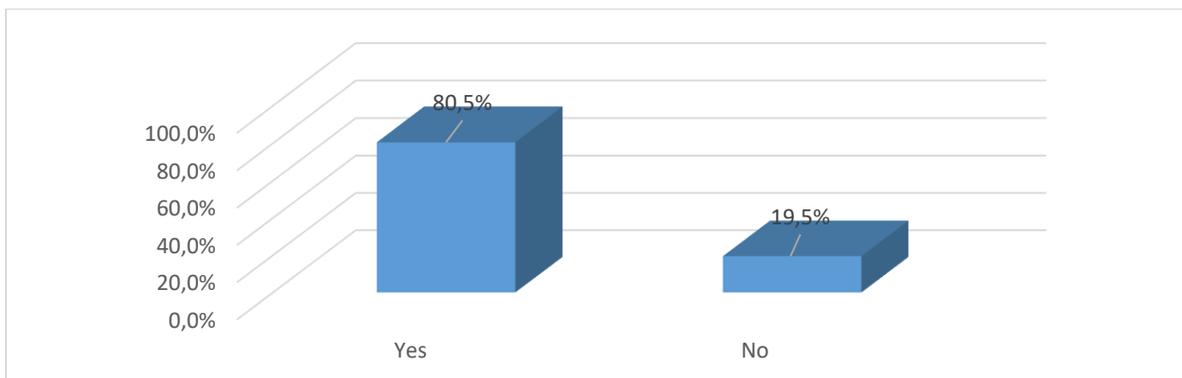


Source: Authors calculation

Engaged in the selection of topics for the practical training during grant preparation and satisfaction

80.5% of the students reported that they were engaged and participated during the grant preparation in the activities for selection of topics for the practical training whereas app. 19.5% reported that they were not engaged. (Figure 4).

Figure 4 - Percentage of students that participated in the selection of topics for practical training during grant preparation

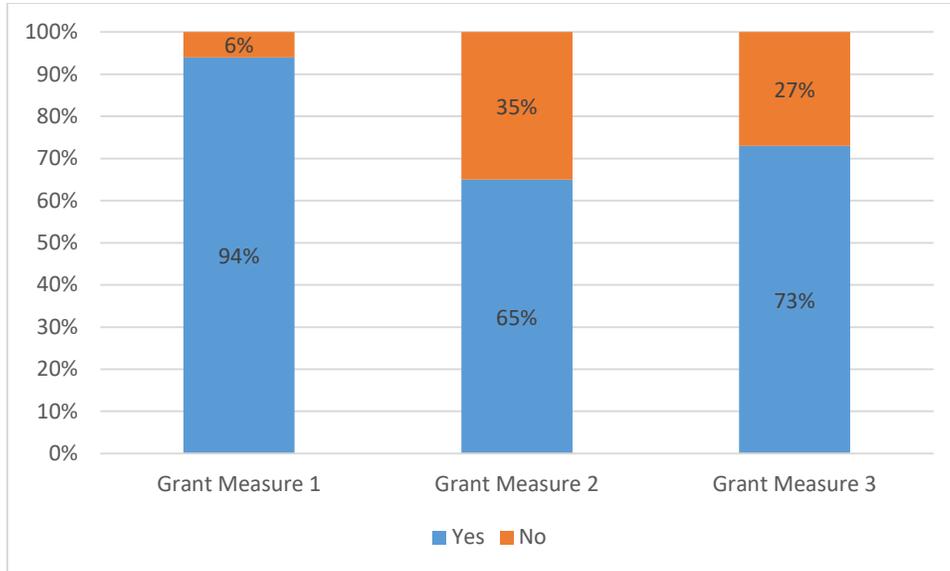


Source: Authors calculation

The participation percentage is highest for Grant projects awarded for Grant measure 1 that is 94% whereas the participation percentage for Grant measure 2 and 3 is 65% and 73% respectively. This is in line with the findings from the baseline survey which revealed that the highest participation rate is reported for projects under the Grant measure 1 whereas the lowest is for Grant measure 2. The lowest participation rate among all can be explained with the fact the projects awarded for the Grant measure 2 are actually the projects that aim for placement of students in practical training in companies in which practical training in most cases is the same as the one prescribed by the Center for vocational education and training for the respective studying program, subject and studying year, therefore the students have limited space to influence the selection of topics for the practical training. (Figure 5).

Figure 5 - Percentage of students that participated in the selection of topics for practical training during grant preparation per Grant measure.

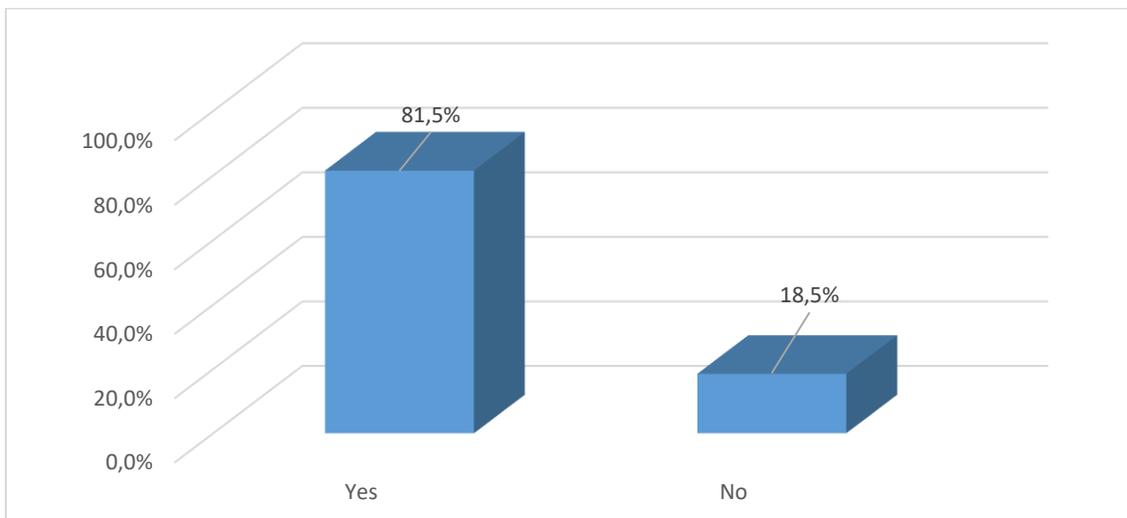
Follow up Survey report on Citizen's engagement in the preparation of the Grant Program for enhancing the collaboration between the schools and business community



Source: Authors calculation

81.5% of the students that participate in the Grant Program are satisfied with their engagement in the selection of topics for practical training during grant preparation whereas 18.5% are not. (Figure 6).

Figure 6 - Percentage of students that participated in the Grant Program satisfied with their engagement in the selection of topics for practical training during grant preparation



Source: Authors calculation

Engaged in the selection of methods for implementation of practical training during grant preparation

Approximately 67% of all sampled students participated in the selection of methods for implementation of practical training during grant preparation. The participation rate is again lowest for the projects awarded under Grant measure 2 - placement of students in practical training in companies (59%) which is expected sign as it is mentioned above, this measure supports projects for practical training of students the companies as prescribed by the VET Center so the students have limited possibilities to influence the selection of topics and methods for implementation. However the participation rates in the selection of methods for implementation of practical training are higher for projects financed under Grant measure 1 and 3, of 72% and 70% respectively.

Figure 7 - Percentage of students that participated in the selection of methods for implementation of practical training during grant preparation

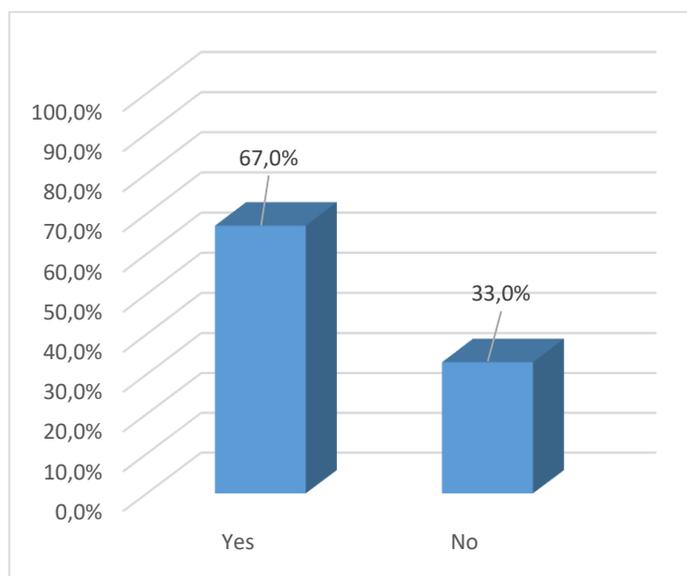
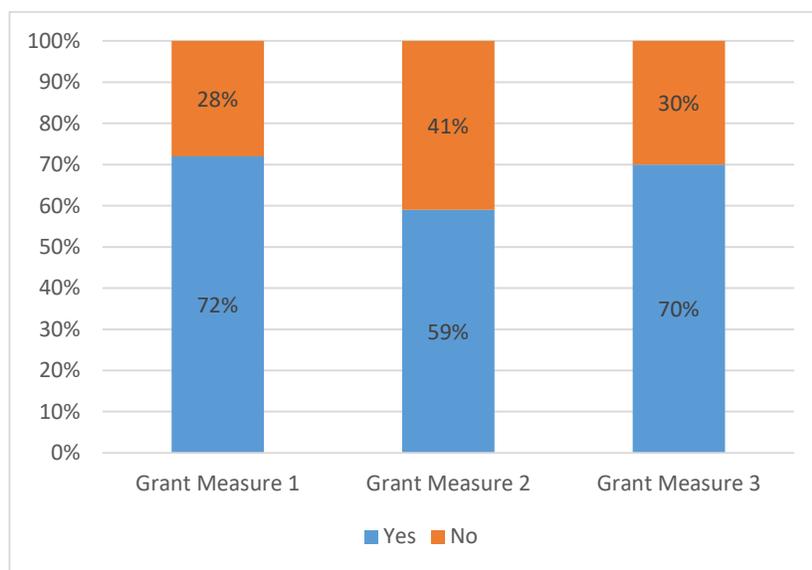


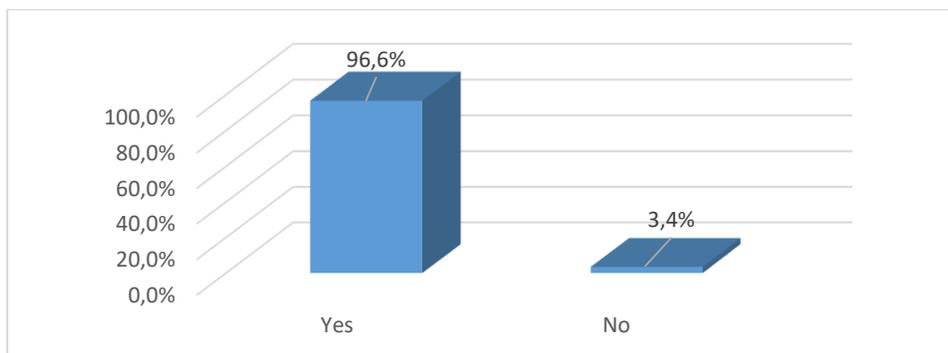
Figure 8 - Percentage of students that participated in the selection of methods for implementation of practical training during grant preparation per Grant measure



Source: Authors calculation

App. 97% of the students that participate in the Grant Program are satisfied with their engagement in the selection of methods for implementation of practical training during grant preparation. (Figure 9).

Figure 9 - Percentage of students that participated in the Grant Program satisfied with their engagement in the selection of methods for implementation of practical training during grant preparation

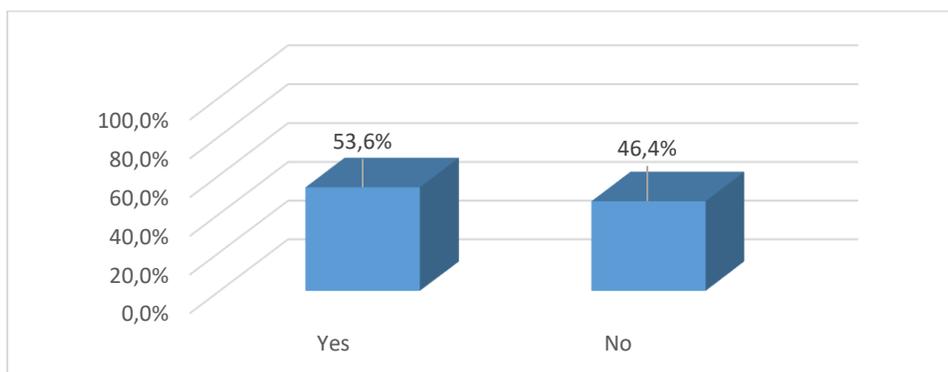


Source: Authors calculation

Engaged in any other form of engagement in any phase during grant preparation and satisfaction

The lowest engagement rate among all phases is found for the category - any other form of engagement in any phase during the grant preparation of 54% whereas 46% did not recognize that they were engaged in any other form of engagement. Nevertheless this question has been used as a control one as we wanted to check whether the students are able to recognize by themselves any other form of engagement not specifically mentioned in the question. We believe that the students instinctively answered this question either by yes or no, having no idea of the phrase “any other form of engagement”. This indicator was also measured during the baseline survey and showed lowest participation rate. Therefore we propose to skip this question in the next rounds of surveys.

Figure 10 - Percentage of students that participated in any other form of engagement in any phase during grant preparation

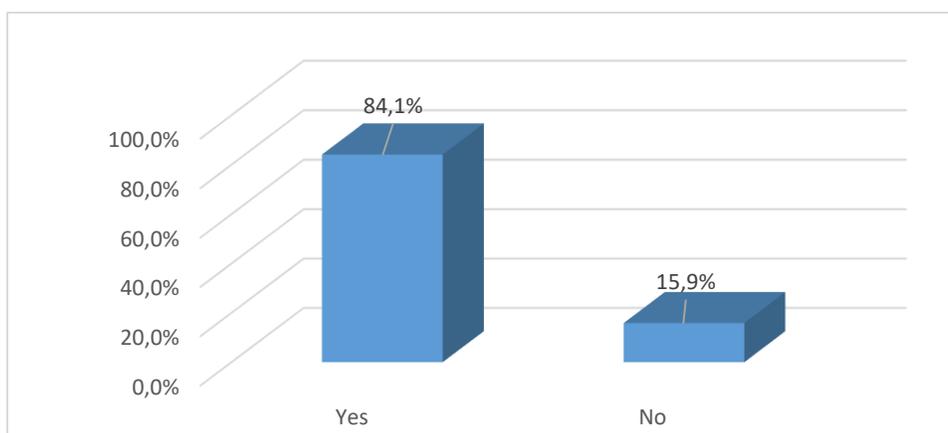


Source: Authors calculation

RESULT FRAMEWORK INDICATOR

84.1% of the students that participate in the Grant Program are satisfied with their engagement during grant preparation. This indicator shows slight increase and we can conclude that there is a progress in the student's engagement in the grant preparation if we compare its value of 82.8% that was established as a baseline indicator during the baseline survey round in 2019.

Figure 11 - Percentage of students that participated in the Grant Program satisfied with their engagement during grant preparation



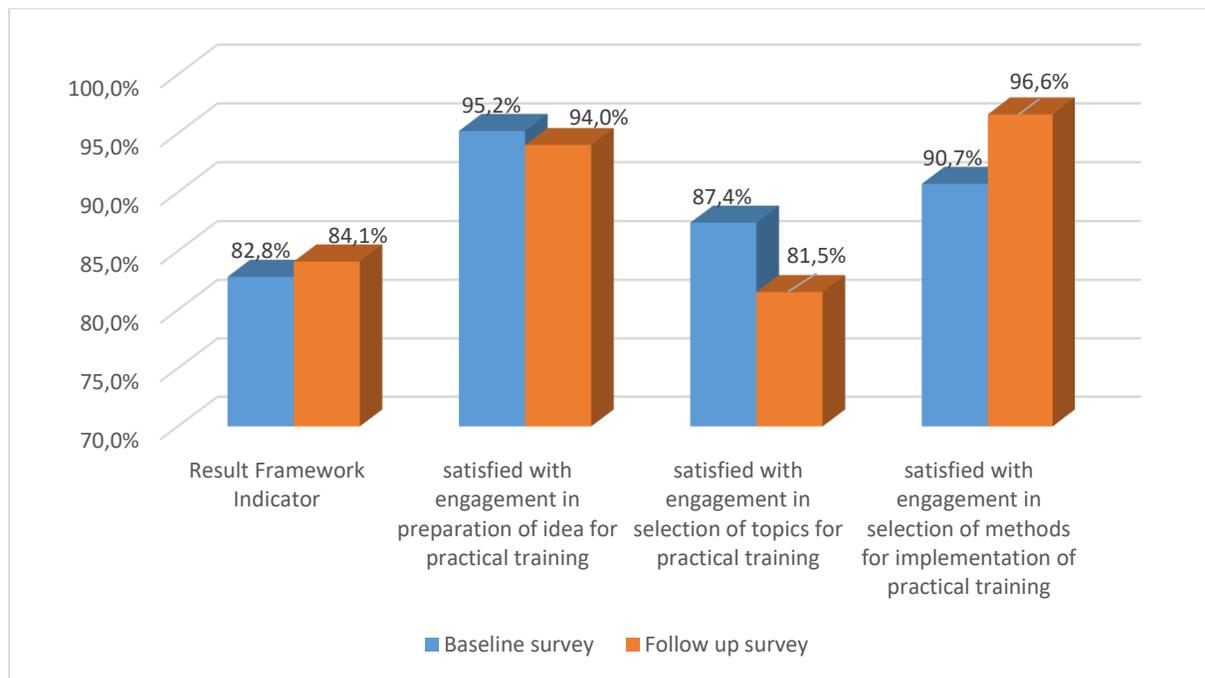
Source: Authors calculation

4. CONCLUSIONS

The study reveals very high satisfaction rates. Vast majority of the students reported that they are satisfied with their engagement in: preparation of idea for the practical training (94%) that is almost on the same level as established during the baseline survey (95%). There is a slight decrease of the satisfaction rates between the two rounds of survey for the satisfaction rates of the students with their engagement in the selection of the topics for practical training from 87% to 81% but this decrease can be explained by the possibility of the students to influence the selection of topics especially in the projects financed under the Grant measure 2 where those are vastly predetermined by the VET Center. Moreover there is an increase of the satisfaction rates among students for their

engagement in the selection of methods for implementation of the practical training from 90% to 96% in two rounds of survey. However, 84.1% of students that participate in the Grant Program are satisfied with their engagement during grant preparation – that represent the progress compared to the baseline indicator established in the SDIS Project Result Framework.

Figure 12 - SUMMARY SATISFACTION RATE



Source: Authors calculation

Even though the study found that the students are highly satisfied with the engagement in the phases of grant preparation, still the study is limited with the information that can be used so as to be able to recognize the forms and methods that were applied by the schools for involvement of the students in the grants preparation. Therefore we cannot conclude whether these figures reflect the student's opinion that they participated but only going through the empty ritual of participation or by having the real power needed to affect the outcome of the process.

ANNEX 1:

The list of selected schools

	TVET SCHOOL	Total No. of students included in project
	Grant measure 1	
1	ASUC Boro Petrushevski, Skopje	149
2	SOU Car Samoil, Resen	65
3	SUGS Marija Kiri Sklodovska, Skopje	300
	Subtotal 1:	514
	Grant measure 2	
4	SGGU Zdravko Cvetkovski, Skopje	206
5	SOU Gorce Petrov, Kriva Palanka	125
6	SOU Taki Daskalo, Bitola	52
	Subtotal 2:	383
	Grant measure 3	
7	SOU Taki Daskalo, Bitola	39
8	SOZU Kuzman Shapkarev, Bitola	40
9	SOU Josif Josifovski, Gevgelija	40
	Subtotal 3:	119
	TOTAL	1016

ANNEX 2: Survey Questioner

QUESTIONNAIRE

For engagement and satisfaction level of students in preparation of grant application for Grant Program for enhancing the collaboration between the schools and business community within *Skills Development and Innovation Support Project* of the Ministry of education and science.

Note: Questionnaire is anonymous and is filled in by students engaged in implementation of project activities, by selecting one from given answers.

Date.....2019

1. **VET School Name** _____
2. **School's year :**
 second, third, fourth
3. **Gender**
 Male Female
4. **In General, are satisfied with your engagement in preparation of project application for Grant programme?**
 YES NO
5. **Have you been engaged in preparation of project idea for practical teaching/training for soft skills/real School Company that is implemented in your school, financed by Grant program?**
 YES NO
6. **Are you satisfied with your engagement in project idea preparation for practical teaching/training for soft skills/real School Company that is implemented in your school, financed by Grant program?**
 YES NO
7. **Have you been engaged in selection of topics for practical teaching/training for soft skills/real School Company that is implemented in your school, financed by Grant program?**
 YES NO
8. **Are you satisfied with your engagement in selection of topics for practical teaching/training for soft skills/real School Company that is implemented in your school, financed by Grant program?**
 YES NO
9. **Have you been engaged in selection of methods for implementation of practical teaching/training for soft skills/real School Company that is implemented in your school, financed by Grant program?**
 YES NO
10. **Are you satisfied with your engagement in selection of methods for implementation of practical teaching/training for soft skills/real School Company that is implemented in your school, financed by Grant program?**
 YES NO
11. **Have you been engaged in any other form in any phase in preparation of application for Grant program ?**
 YES NO