



македонско американска  
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macedonian american  
alumni association



## Status – quo Analysis Reports

Activity 1 of the



**Project:**

**Equal Access through Service Learning  
for Persons with Disabilities**

Skopje, 2012

**Note:** The texts herein, in general, are included as originally submitted by the authors, i.e. they were not subject to contextual changes.

# **Status – quo Analysis Reports**

**Activity 1 of the  
Project:**

**Equal Access through Service Learning  
for Persons with Disabilities**

**Status Quo R e p o r t**

**for the towns of Kavadarci, Negotino, Stip and Veles  
Republic of Macedonia**

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The project Equal Access through Service Learning for Persons with Disabilities comprises several stages one of which is this status quo report on accessibility for the towns of Kavadarci, Negotino, Stip and Veles. The research was conducted in the course of April and May 2012. Bearing in mind the unfavourable situation in relation to accessibility this report contains more images than words since sometimes a picture can really speak for itself.

Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with disability among others states that:

- **Countries should make sure disabled people have better access to things in all areas of life.**
- **There should be better access to public buildings like hospitals and schools, and transport.**
- **Signs should be in easy read and Braille.**
- **More guides and sign language interpreters should be available in public buildings.**

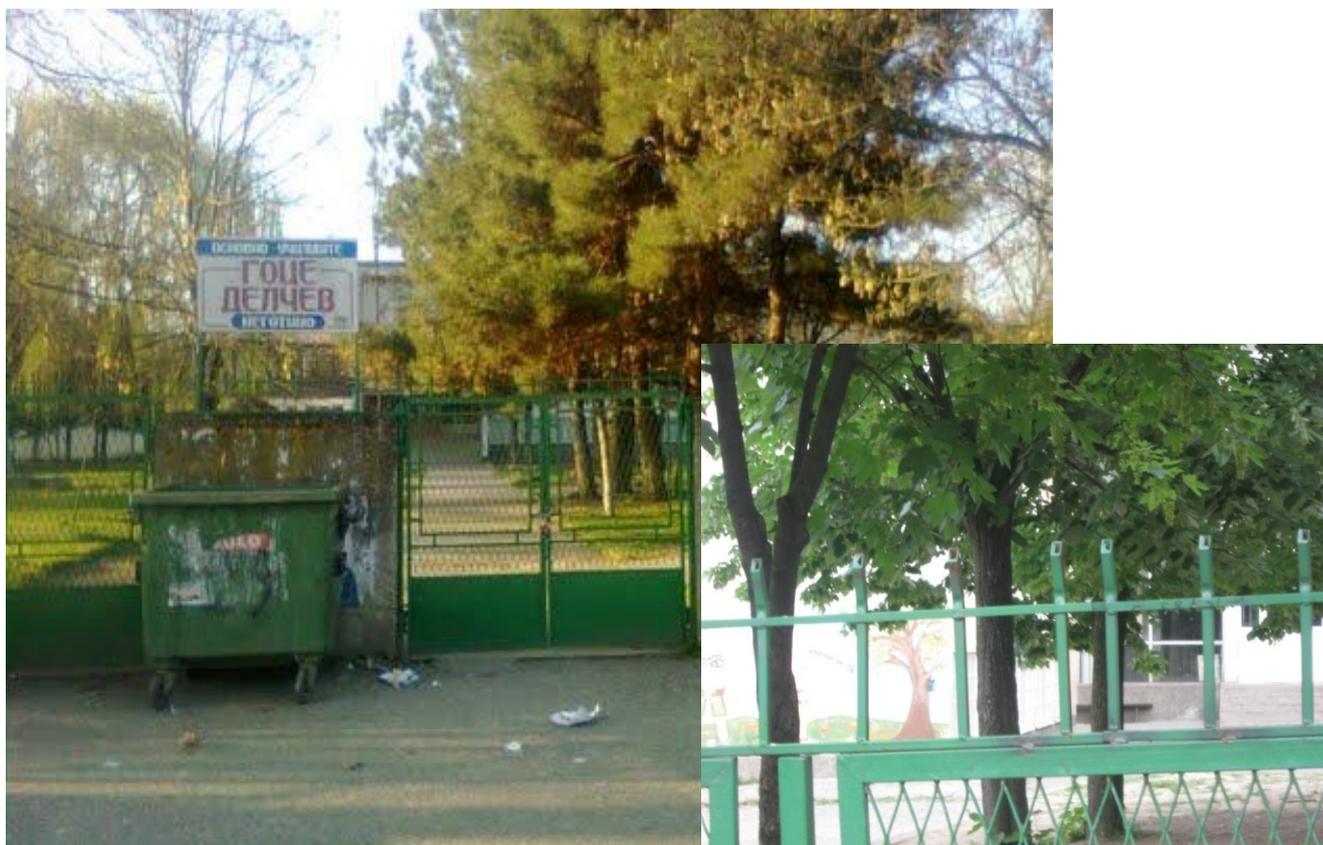
Based on these recommendations it was possible to make a categorization of institutions and to identify four hot spots in relation to accessibility in the said towns:

- Education
- Public Services
- Life, Entertainment
- Transport/Movement

## Education

In relation to educational institutions the status in the said towns is as follows:

In Negotino there are 2 primary Schools (of which only one has access ramp at the entrance) and 1 secondary school located at the hill on the right side of the entrance to Negotino from the direction of Veles, and it is totally inaccessible.





In Kavadarci there are five primary schools, two secondary and dispersed studies within the Goce Delchev University in Stip. Regretfully, almost all of these are inaccessible.



As seen in the picture there is no access from yard and a very steep ramp at the entrance of the building which is very inappropriate, dangerous & unsafe and not recommended for use.



Secondary education school – Gymnasium Dobri Daskalov – inaccessible for w/c users.

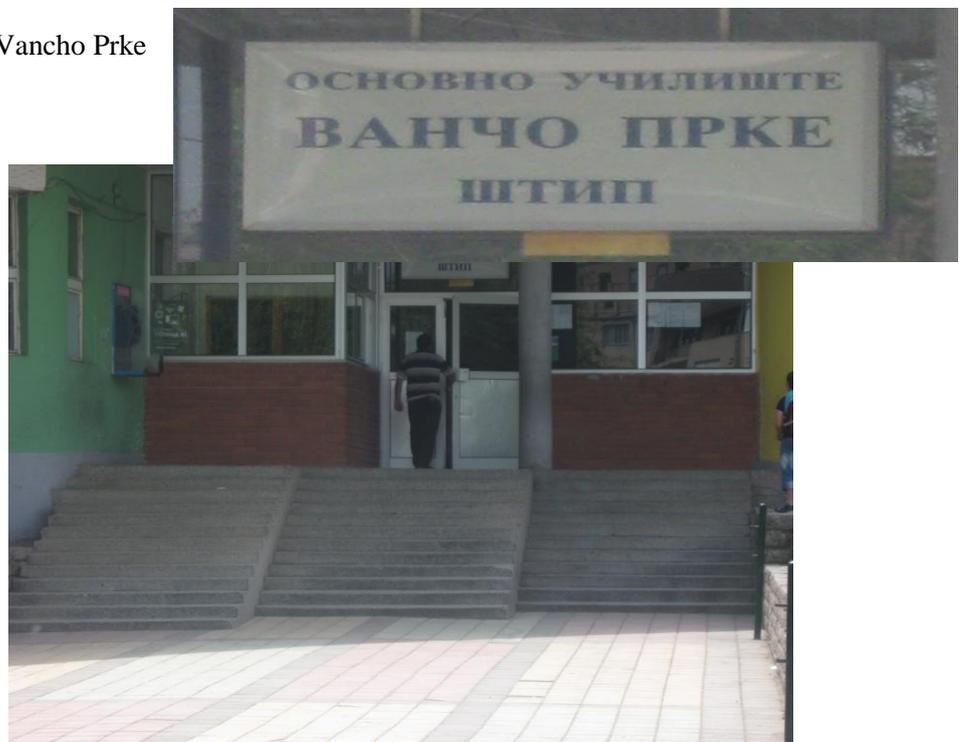


Agrcultural and forestry educational center Gjorche Petrov

Agricultural and forestry educational center Gjorche Petrov seems accessible at entrance, at least for the first ground premises.

In Stip there are several primary and 5 secondary schools – almost all inaccessible

Primary School Vancho Prke







The Music School – Stip

In Stip there is a Student Residence Hall Braќa Miladinovci Stip – inaccessible for w/c users



Stip is hosting the Goce Delchev Univeristy, compising 13 faculties of which some have been located in other cities (Radovish, Kochani, Strumica, Vinica, Kavadarci)  
The impression is that more attention is paid to accessibility of higher education institutions.





Faculty of Philology



Faculty of Information Sciences – Stip (inaccessible for w/c users)



Regional public and university library Goce Delchev Stip  
(inaccessible for w/c users)

In Veles there are several primary schools, 4 secondary schools and dispersed studies of the Faculty of Tourism from Ohrid



Primary school St. Cyril and Methodius – located in one of the oldest beautiful educational buildings in the region, however inside it is full of stairs that makes it very inaccessible for w/c users.



**Municipal primary school Blagoj Kirkov**  
**Municipal primary school Jordan H.K. Dzinot**

two primary schools share this building - only ground floor premises are accessible for w/c users.



Special Education School Maca Ovcarova attended by students with special educational needs.  
Inside not accessible for w/c users.



**Primary School Vasil Glavinov**

An example of good practice with properly constructed ramp at the entrance on initiative of the NGO Association of Persons with Cerebral Palsy from Veles.



Secondary Education School Gymnasium Koco Racin and  
Secondary Education School Dimitrija Cupovski share this building  
(inaccessible inside for w/c users)



Secondary education school for vocational professions (mechanical, electrical, computer)  
Kole Nedelkovski Veles



Faculty of Tourism from Ohrid – dispersed studies in Veles

As seen in the above photos most of the educational institutions in the towns subject of this status quo report are inaccessible for wheelchair user. There are no adopted toilets in any of the schools also.

## Public Services

- ❖ In all towns there are Employment Agency, Pension and Health Insurance Funds, court, medical institutions, Social Work Centre, banks etc.
- ❖ Only small number of these are truly accessible both in view of physical accessibility and in relation to the access of real and timely information.
- ❖ I wonder whether this is sufficient to secure the right to privacy, autonomy and independence of the person with disability. For example, blind persons or persons with hearing impairment.

The Pension and Disability Fund of Macedonia and the Health Insurance Fund are usually situated in the same building



The Pension and Disability Fund and the Health Insurance Fund in Stip



The Employment Agency







The Social Work Centre – Stip



The Social Work Centre Veles



Court buildings  
Kavadarci – inaccessible



Negotino



Stip - Court house hosting the Primary, Apellate Courts and the Ombdusman



Veles – inside the building there is a lift to the first floor



Emergency Unit Kavadarci



The Emergency Unit Negotino



Private pharmacy in Negotino

The Emergency Unit Stip



Polyclinical Centre Stip



Health Center d-r Pance Karadjozov in Stip

Private pharmacy in Stip



The Emergency Unit Veles where other medical offices are located. Only first floor accessible, whereas the second is not. Ramp was built under a project implemented by Handicap International and the Association of Persons with Cerebral Palsy from Veles





The General Hospital in Kavadarci - entrance



The City Hall Stip



The City Hall – Kavadarci (new ramp built at the moment of taking the picture)



The City Hall in Negotino – access to the first floor only



The City Hall in Veles – no access for w/c users. There is however a Citizen's Service Centre on the other side of the building.



**Banks**

Kavadarci



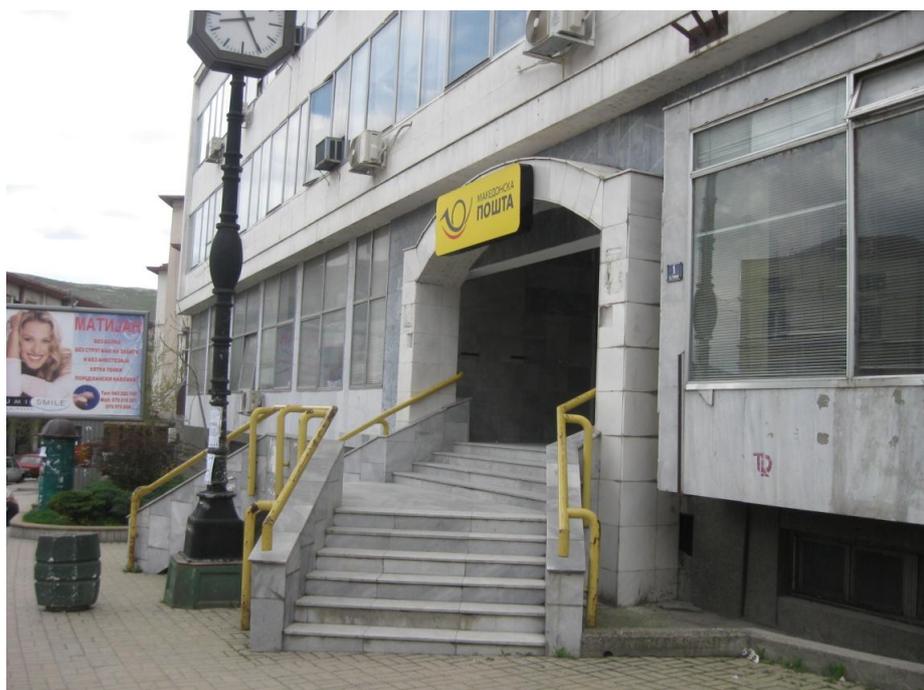
Negotino



Veles



The Macedonian Post – not accessible in all towns subject of this status quo report.



The Registrar's Office in Veles



Life, Leisure & Entertainment - accessibility of living space



Typical entrance to a house in Negotino – downstairs stores and upstairs living premises



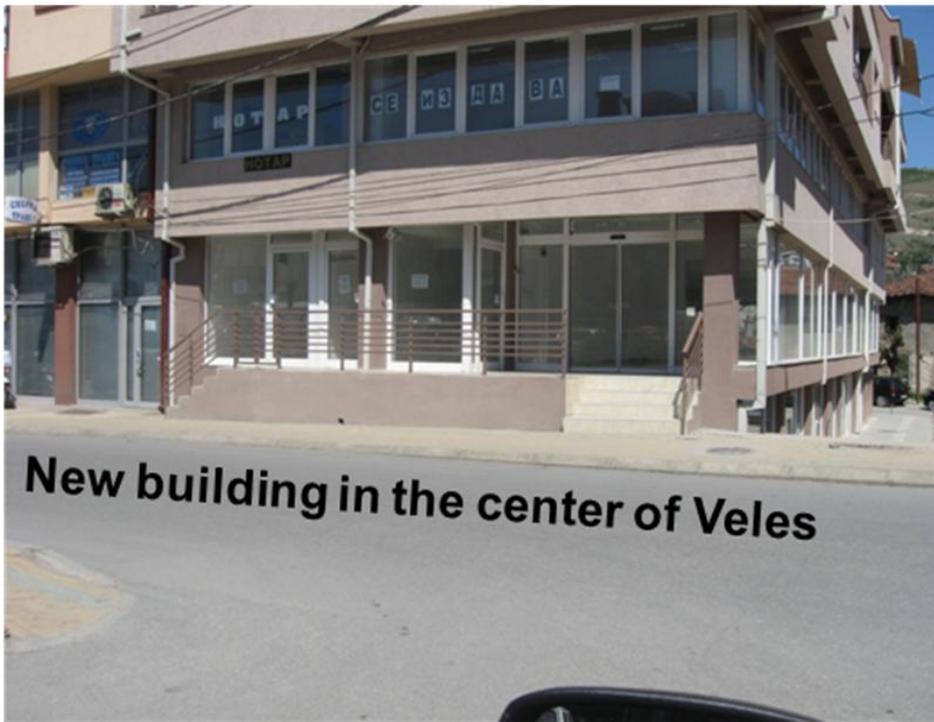
An excellent example of properly built ramp at the Daily Care Centre in Negotino (owned and managed by the NGO Poraka Negotino)



New building in Kavadarci – proper access at entrance



Typical entrance to a building in Veles (both pictures)



A good example of proper ramp at the entrance constructed on private initiative of the family with a child with cerebral palsy and donation by a local construction company.

# Sports-Entertainment

Inaccessible buildings in Negotino, Kavadarci, Stip and Veles



Sports Hall in Negotino



Cultural Centre Aco Gjorchev Negotino



Cultural Centre Ivan Mazov Klime – Kavadarci



Cultural Centre Aco Shopov where one of the largest festival of pop music in Republic of Macedonia called Makfest has been held every November for over two decades.



Sports Hall in Veles



Several accessible entrances in the city mall in Stip! There are numerous shops and banks within so it can be said that this is somehow accessible location for w/c users.

**Examples of Good Practice**



**Sports Hall Jasmin  
Kavadarci**



**National Theater Strip**



**National Theater Veles**



Cultural Centre Beli Mugri (White Dawns) in Veles



One of the best examples of proper ramps and access to the National Museum in Stip

## Transport/Movement

It seems that when it comes to accessibility transport and movement are the weakest spots in the four cities, as is the case with most of the country. Although the railway and bus stations in the said town are somehow accessible, public transport is not!



Railway station in Stip



Railway platform in Veles



Typical bus seen in Macedonian roads



Railway station in Negotino

The same is the situation with movement around the towns. There are not many dropped curbs of sidewalks in the four towns, and due to the topography the streets are very steep and it is practically impossible for a person using manual wheelchair to move independently in all of these towns.



Sidewalk in Negotino



Sidewalk in Kavadarci



Downtown – Stip



Sidewalk in Veles

Good example of a properly built new ramp in Veles





Good example of dropped curb (the only one!) in Stip



The only marked parking spaces can be found in Veles and mainly these are occupied by non-handicapped marked vehicles

## Conclusion:

The research conducted in the course of April and May 2012 revealed that most of the institutions are located within the central part of the town most of which have no proper access constructed by standards.

The primary and secondary education schools are located in different locations of the towns, and most of these have no proper access.

Medical institutions in general are accessible to persons with physical disability in all towns subject of this status quo report.

Many banks are located within the city mall which is has several accessible entrances (Stip). This however is not the case for other towns, in particular in Veles.

No dropped curbs, except for one in the centre in Stip and one in Veles. Public transport completely inaccessible. No marked parking spaces have been noticed except for the town of Veles, but these are mainly occupied by non-handicapped marked vehicles.

Regretfully, the status is not good, in particular for persons with severe disability (very severe mobility, blind persons, persons with hearing impairment).

We appreciate all the efforts made to change this situation and we sincerely hope that this shall continue at a more intensive rate, in accordance with the domestic and international standards, and above all due to the humanity and equality promoted by our state.