

1) **Fiche to be used for each step:**

The step under review	Number of primary schools equipped with Internet access and IT tools (December 2025) 160 schools [number/share of primary schools concerned; number of pupils and teachers covered]: 160 schools [44% of schools]
Baseline	Baseline: 2023: 40 Primary Schools (11% of schools) i.e. 24.000 students and 3.120 teachers.
Deadline of the step	December 2025
Actual results	<p>Provision of Network and IT Equipment to Primary Schools</p> <p>In relation to implementation of the step, the Ministry of Education and Science has undertaken a series of structured and transparent procedures, resulting in the successful equipping of 166 primary schools with network and/or IT equipment, thereby exceeding the initially defined target.</p> <p>The equipping of primary schools with network and/or IT equipment was implemented through:</p> <p>The support of the Loan Agreement No.9182-MK of the World Bank- Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP). A clear and objective selection formula was developed and applied to identify schools eligible for investment. Based on the finalized list of selected schools, public procurement procedures for the acquisition of network and/or IT equipment were subsequently launched.</p> <p>-The State Budget of the Ministry of Education and Science - through public procurement procedures conducted via the national Electronic System for Public Procurement (ESPP), and</p> <p>The implementation of a Grant programme under the World Bank loan.</p> <p>All relevant documents related to the procurement processes, including procurement requests, technical specifications, procurement and award decisions, contracts, as well as control mechanisms and official records have been duly prepared and are attached to the fiche, as supporting evidence.</p> <p>Selection Criteria and Methodology for Equipping Schools with Network and IT Infrastructure</p> <p>The authorities signed a Loan Agreement with the World Bank for the implementation of the Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP), which is implemented by the Ministry of Education and Science. A portion of these funds is allocated to investments in network and IT infrastructure in primary schools. The overarching objective of the Project is to improve learning conditions and support the acquisition of key competencies in primary education, in line with national education priorities and international standards.</p>

In accordance with the the Loan Agreement, investments in school network and IT infrastructure and equipment are implemented in schools with a utilization rate exceeding 65%. The utilization rate is calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{School Utilization Rate (\%)} = \text{Number of Students/Maximum Enrolment Capacity} \times 100$$

Where:

- **Number of Students** represents the total number of students attending the school across all shifts;
- **Maximum Enrolment Capacity** represents the number of classrooms in use multiplied by the maximum permitted number of students per classroom.

Based on this methodology, in **2023**, the first **40 primary schools** were selected and equipped with new network infrastructure. The same objective criterion was consistently applied for the selection of all remaining schools whose equipping was implemented under the Project.

In **2024**, the Ministry of Education and Science, through the PEIP implemented procurement procedures for the provision of IT and network equipment to primary schools, while in **2025** procurement procedures were carried out for the provision of network and IT equipment through the state and loan budget. In both cases, the utilization rate formula continued to serve as the primary and established eligibility criterion.

Grant Programme Implementation

A portion of the available funds was also allocated to the implementation of a **grant programme** aimed at improving the quality of teaching and learning, as well as the overall institutional performance of primary schools.

The grant programme is implemented under the Primary Education Improvement Project and financed through the World Bank loan. Through a public call for proposals, the Ministry of Education and Science invited all public primary schools to express their interest in participating by submitting grant applications for activities aimed at improving the quality of school performance in North Macedonia. The maximum value of grants awarded under this programme is **up to MKD 600,000 (9.756€) per school**.

The procedure for awarding grants is described in the Operational Manual for the Implementation of the Grant Program for Improving the Quality of Work of Primary Schools in North Macedonia.

The manual is published on the official web of the ministry, attached at the following link <https://mon.gov.mk/mk-MK/proekti/za-peip>. The same link also contains the Call for the Award of Grants for Financing Activities from the Development Programs of Public Primary Schools in the Republic of North Macedonia

Within their grant applications, primary schools defined the specific activities to be financed through the grant. A few schools allocated part of the grant funds to the procurement of IT equipment, with the objective of improving students' access to the internet and digital learning tools. The schools independently conducted the procurement

	<p>procedures in line with applicable regulations, concluded contracts with suppliers, and the PEIP funds were directly transferred to the schools' bank accounts.</p>
<p>Evidence provided</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 1: Report of Primary Schools Equipped with Network and/or IT Equipment • Annex 1.1 List of Primary Schools Equipped with Network and or IT Equipment (All related documents and technical specifications for all purchases are placed in the attached documents for this fiche under the name“ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 1.2 Technical Specifications <p><u>Evidence by year</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex 2: Year 2023 - 40 schools equipped <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 schools equipped with network equipment through Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP). https://mon.gov.mk/mk-MK/proekti/oglasipeip/nabavka-na-mreznai-informaticka-infrastruktura • public procurement note nabavka-na-mreznai-informaticka-infrastruktura-file-gBur.doc and • notification of awarded contract nabavka-na-mreznai-informaticka-infrastruktura-file-kU8s.pdf • Delivery note for the delivered equipment, signed by the school principal and the supplier for each school placed in the folder 2023/40 Primary Schools equipped with network equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici Record/Minutes on completed assembly, installation, and commissioning, signed by the school principal, the supplier, and a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science for each school placed in the folder 2023/40 Primary Schools equipped with network equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici • Annex 3: Year 2024 - 39 schools equipped • Ann. 3.1 - 35 schools equipped with network equipment through Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public procurement note podobruvanje-na-mreznata-infrastruktura-na-osnovnite-ucilista-kraen-rok-15022024-file-MTJO.doc and • notification of awarded contract podobruvanje-na-mreznata-infrastruktura-na-osnovnite-ucilista-kraen-rok-15022024-file-dVIR.pdf • Delivery note for the delivered equipment, signed by the school principal and the supplier for each school placed in the folder 2024/ 35 Primary Schools equipped with network equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici • Record/Minutes on completed assembly, installation, and commissioning, signed by the school principal, the supplier, and a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science for each school placed in the folder 2024/ 35 Primary Schools equipped with network equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici • Ann. 3.2 - 4 schools equipped with IT equipment through Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public procurement note and • notification of awarded contract

- <https://arhiva.mon.gov.mk/stored/document/contract%20award%20notice-%20018-23.docx>
- <https://arhiva.mon.gov.mk/stored/document/oglas%20018-23.doc>
- Delivery note for the delivered equipment, signed by the school principal and the supplier for each school placed in the folder 2024/ 4 Primary schools equipped with IT equipment/Ispratnici

Annex 4- Year 2025 - 87 schools equipped

- **Annex 4.1- 20 schools** equipped with network equipment through Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP).
 - public procurement note [podobruvanje-na-mreznata-infrastruktura-na-osnovnite-ucilista-kraen-rok-20122024-file-572b.docx](https://arhiva.mon.gov.mk/stored/document/podobruvanje-na-mreznata-infrastruktura-na-osnovnite-ucilista-kraen-rok-20122024-file-572b.docx) and
 - notification of awarded contract [podobruvanje-na-mreznata-infrastruktura-na-osnovnite-ucilista-kraen-rok-20122024-file-7fT9.pdf](https://arhiva.mon.gov.mk/stored/document/podobruvanje-na-mreznata-infrastruktura-na-osnovnite-ucilista-kraen-rok-20122024-file-7fT9.pdf)
 - Delivery note for the delivered equipment, signed by the school principal and the supplier for each school placed in the folder 2025/ 20 Primary Schools equipped with network equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici
 - Record/Minutes on completed assembly, installation, and commissioning, signed by the school principal, the supplier, and a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science for each school placed in the folder 2025/ 20 Primary Schools equipped with network equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici
- **Annex 4.2- 7 schools** equipped with IT equipment through Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP) **Grant program**.
 - Call for the Award of Grants for Financing Activities from the Development Programs of Public Primary Schools in the Republic of North Macedonia. <https://mon.gov.mk/mk-MK/proekti/za-peip> public procurement note and notification of awarded contract <https://mon.gov.mk/mk-MK/proekti/oglasipeip/nabavka-na-stoki>
 - Contracts between schools and suppliers, invoices for the delivered IT equipment and an account statement from which it can be determined the transfer of funds from the MoES account to the schools' account are placed in the folder 2025/7 Primary schools equipped with IT equipment with Grant
- **Annex 4.2- 38 schools** equipped with IT equipment financed from the budget of the of Ministry of Education and Science.
 - MoES Annual public procurement Plan number 10-1189/2 21.1.2025
 - public procurement note, technical specification, contract number for 3 Lots, <https://e-nabavki.gov.mk/PublicAccess/home.aspx#/dossie/7c310b7f-3a0a-4155-ae1c-44c1514d1189/1>
 - Request for publishing public procurement call- 07-2055/ 1 from 30.1.2025,
 - Decision for public procurement number – 10-2189/1 from 31.1.2025,
 - Decision for best selected supply part 1 – 10-2189/7 from 8.4.2025, Decision for best selected supply part 2 – 10-2189/8 from 8.4.2025 Decision for best

selected supply part 3 – 10-2189/9 from 8.4.2025 are placed in the folder 2025/ 38 Primary schools equipped with IT equipment

- Contract for Lot 1 10-2189/14 from 5.5.2025, e-nabavki.gov.mk/PublicAccess/home.aspx#/dossie-acpp/ab2a123b-81c7-4ae7-80ae-222d13725650
- Contract for Lot 2 10-2189/15 from 5.5.2025, e-nabavki.gov.mk/PublicAccess/home.aspx#/dossie-acpp/3e88c1ce-0069-4a6b-8c12-d331cdf39470
- Contract for Lot 3 10-2189/16 from 5.5.2025, e-nabavki.gov.mk/PublicAccess/home.aspx#/dossie-acpp/767ff99f-69a4-42ff-aa59-55764f13cc9a
- Delivery note for the delivered equipment, signed by the school principal and the supplier for each school placed in the folder 2025/ 38 Primary Schools equipped with IT equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici
- Record/Minutes on completed assembly, installation, and commissioning, signed by the school principal, the supplier, and a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science for each school placed in the folder 2025/ 38 Primary Schools equipped with IT equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici

- **Annex 4.3- 22 schools** equipped with network equipment financed from the budget of the Ministry of Education and Science.

- Request for publishing public procurement - 07-1766/ 1 from 28.1.2025,
- Decision for public procurement number 10-6651/1 from 29.7.2025
- public procurement note, technical specification, Contract number 10-665/10 from 1.10.2025, <https://e-nabavki.gov.mk/PublicAccess/home.aspx#/dossie/d6f0a7a1-35f0-46ae-8eeb-0e24e857dbc7/1>
- Decision for best selected supply – 10-665/7 from 16.09.2025 (are placed in the folder 2025/ 22 Primary Schools equipped with network equipment MoES)
- Delivery note for the delivered equipment, signed by the school principal and the supplier for each school placed in the folder 2025/22 Primary Schools equipped with network equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici
- Record/Minutes on completed assembly, installation, and commissioning, signed by the school principal, the supplier, and a representative of the Ministry of Education and Science for each school placed in the folder 2025/22 Primary Schools equipped with network equipment/Zapisnici i Ispratnici

- **Annex 5- Photos of the supplied equipment in schools**

Total: 166 schools equipped with network and/or IT equipment.

Procurements carried out through Ministry of Education and Science are in accordance with the Public Procurement Law, by which an Annual Public Procurement Plan is prepared for each calendar year.

	<p>Procurements carried out through PEIP are in accordance with World Bank procurement procedures.</p>
<p>Checks performed in the verification of the step and related findings</p>	<p>In regard to the procurements conducted by the Ministry of Education and Science and PEIP, the principal of each school has signed a Delivery note for the equipment delivered. After the installation of the equipment was completed, representatives of the MoES/PEIP conducted a field visit to the schools to determine whether the equipment has been installed and put into use. After the field visit is completed, a Record/minutes of the installation and putting into use of the equipment was signed by the principal of the school and representatives of the MoES/PEIP.</p> <p>Regarding the grants, the schools carried out the procurement themselves, signed contracts with suppliers, and the funds from the PEIP were directly transferred to the schools' accounts based on signed contract and invoice issued. The folder "Primary schools equipped with IT equipment with Grant "contains the Contracts between schools and suppliers, invoices for the delivered IT equipment and an account statement from which it can be determined the transfer of funds from the MoES account to the schools' account.</p>
<p>Compliance with general principles and DNSH principle</p>	<p>The implementation of the step, is in compliance with the general principles outlined in Article 4 and 11(4) of Regulation (EU) 2024/1449 and Article 3 of the Facility Agreement. The implementation of the does not contravene with the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) principle in accordance with Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852. It is of an analytical and policy-design nature and does not involve construction works, physical investments, or activities that could cause significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives. The measure therefore has no expected negative environmental impact.</p>
<p>Double funding</p>	<p>MoES under the World Bank Loan No. 9182-mk signed Agreement for the Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP) incorporating measures for digitalization of the primary education. The contribution from the World Bank loan was identified from the very beginning, and as it is a loan, it ensures compliance with the principle of no double funding.</p> <p>North Macedonia has received funding through a World Bank Loan for the implementation of the Primary Education Improvement Project (PEIP), which is implementing through the Ministry of Education and Science.</p> <p>The main objective of the project is to improve learning conditions and the acquisition of key skills in primary education.</p> <p>Part of these funds is used to equip primary schools with network and IT infrastructure, and another part of these funds is used to implement a grant program, the aim of which is to improve the quality of teaching and learning, as well as the overall operation of primary schools. There is no double funding, as the loan funds are part of the MoES budget.</p>
<p>Clear conclusion on the achievement of the step</p>	<p>Fully achieved</p>