



## Macedonian Primary Teachers Increase Digital Literacy with Microsoft Office Specialist Certification

Aerodrom is one of the ten municipalities that make up the city of Skopje, the capital of North Macedonia. Aerodrom has 8 primary schools with 400 teachers serving more than 6500 students in the area.

Certiadria is an international education and certification company established and based in the Adriatic region. Their mission is to work with educational institutions to help staff and students demonstrate computer literacy and validate their productivity skills. Certiadria did several presentations about their portfolio of industry-recognized certifications to the Aerodrom Department of Education and primary school directors.

The Mayor of Aerodrom, Mr. Zlatko Marin, opened the door to support a project to ensure primary school teachers were digitally literate and prepared to teach their students the basics of computer software programs.

Aerodrom began by funding Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification from Certiadria for approximately 100 primary school teachers as a first step to improve digital literacy in the region. Microsoft Office Specialist guarantees that every certified user has demonstrated the ability to command the full features and functionality of Microsoft Office, preparing them for future academic or workforce opportunities.

By first training the teachers, the goal is to then digitally transform all schools in the

region so students can also become digitally literate. The primary teachers are interested in earning MOS certification because many of them use Microsoft Office on a daily basis.

Certiadria helped to facilitate the MOS training and set the primary schools up to continue their own internal training and coaching. They also provided demonstration exams and helped them to prepare for approximately one month before taking the MOS exams. In the first phase of implementation, 150 teachers were certified in 5 of the primary schools. Most of them took the MOS PowerPoint exam, with some taking the MOS Word exam and a few earning MOS Excel certification.

"With MOS certification these teachers receive several benefits: creativity, digital skills, and understanding how to implement IT technologies inside of their classroom," said Stojanoski. "In addition, they receive proof that they are knowledgeable in IT, which gives them confidence and allows them to participate in further technical training and projects."

The primary school directors have already seen the benefit of their teachers earning MOS certification. "The goal is for our students to be prepared for the jobs of the future," said Julijana Todorovska, Director of Primary School Dimitar Makedonski. "We are investing in the development of our society as a whole."

Next Certiadria will continue to work to build digital skills in Aerodrom by expanding the MOS program to the rest of the primary schools in the area. Then they will move on to Microsoft Certified Educator training and certification. Educators holding a Microsoft Certified Educator certification can prove they have the skills needed to provide rich, customized learning experiences for their students that incorporate critical 21st century skills using Microsoft tools.

"We have already seen the MOS certified teachers using those digital skills in the classroom with more dynamic lessons, visual learning, research activities, and digital project design," said Marko Serafimovski, COO, Certiadria. "MCE certification will take them even further and our message is clear: by investing in digital transformation at schools, you invest in teachers, students, and their skills for the future."

