PARTNER IDENTIFICATION FORM

ASTERA	
Organisation ID	E10439281
PIC number	861457292
EuropeAid ID	MK-2026-ABA-2109386310
Promoter's legal name (national language)	Здружение за социо-културен развој, стеам едукација и иновации АСТЕРА Кавадарци
Promoter's legal name (latin characters)	Association for socio-cultural development, STEAM education and innovation ASTERA Kavadarci
Acronym, if applicable	Astera
National ID number	7957750
Unique tax number	4011026526430
Legal address	Shishka 2/6-6
Postal code	1430
City	Kavadarci
Country	Republic of North Macedonia
Region	Tikvesh
Web site	www.ngoastera.org
Email	ngoastera@gmail.com
Telephone	0038972208792
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/ngoastera

Profile:	
Type of organisation	Non-governmental organisation/association
Is the organisation a public body?	No
Is the organisation a non-profit?	Yes
Please specify the main sector of activity	Other: socio-cultural development, STEAM education and innovation, youth empowerment
Accreditation	No

Background and experience

What are the organisation's main activities?

The Association for Socio-Cultural Development, STEAM Education and Innovation ASTERA Kavadarci was established on 20 July 2026. Our main goal is to contribute to socio-cultural development, the improvement of STEM education, innovations, digital competencies, entrepreneurship and lifelong learning, through education, information, public awareness raising, advocacy and lobbying, networking and active participation in the development and improvement of public policies, in order to create conditions for sustainable development and improve the well-being of individuals and communities.

Our work focuses on creating opportunities for the exchange of knowledge, technology, creativity and partnerships. In this way, we aim to contribute to creating the conditions for sustainable development and a better quality of life. We believe that every individual has the potential to learn, create, and contribute, and our role is to help transform that potential into opportunities and positive change.

Although newcomer organisation, our team brings together experienced professionals with diverse expertise in project management, culture, IT, AI, education and other fields relevant to our areas of work:

Elena Rizova is the President and legal representative of NGO Astera. She holds a BA in Italian Language and Literature with American Studies and has significant experience working on international and EU-funded projects, progressing from communication officer and project assistant to senior project coordinator.

In addition to her experience in project management and implementation, she has knowledge of IT technologies and is proficient in using a wide range of IT tools in her everyday work, gained through her involvement in numerous IT-related projects.

In 2010, she was engaged as a Project Assistant and Translator/Interpreter for the EU-funded project “Drafting of ToR for TA to Implementation of the Roma Strategy”, implemented for the benefit of the EU Delegation in Skopje.
Ms Rizova also served as project manager for the localization of Siebel CRM from English into Macedonian during its implementation at T-Mobile Macedonia by T-Systems Programme Manager, represented by 3C Consult.

She has participated in numerous EU-funded projects as a project writer and in project implementation, serving as a project coordinator or project assistant. Her experience includes E+ KA1 project “Albergo Diffuso – Learning about New Forms of Sustainable Tourism”; IPA-CSO project “Sustainability by Networking for Social Entrepreneurship”; E+ KA2 VET project “ECVET ENS 2 – Recognition and Validation of Learning Outcomes and Qualifications in the Nature-Based and Rural Tourism Sector within the Framework of the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training”; E+ KA2 Youth project “Using Upcycling for Boosting Youth Employment”; E+ KA2 Adult Education project “Traditional Food – For Better Education and Job Opportunities”; E+ KA2 Adult Education project “Renewable Energy Sources for a Safe Future”; E+ KA3 project “Youth Policy Academy – Engage, Connect, Empower”, among others.

Among the national projects, her experience particularly includes GEF SGP-funded projects, such as “Reduce Furniture Waste, Wood and Textile Waste through Their Reuse and Improve Social Inclusion in the Municipality of Kavadarci” and “Use of Positive Ecological Practices for Reducing the Negative Effects of Solid Waste on the Environment and Global Warming.”

She holds a Google Project Management Professional Certificate and is a Certified Court Translator and Interpreter for Italian–Macedonian.
More info linkedin.com/in/elenarizova

Viktor Kjimov is a member of the visual and creative team, with a diverse range of skills in visual arts, audio, video and lighting. His expertise covers complete technical execution of all types of events, where he often works as a freelancer in the roles of sound engineer, lighting designer and technician. His career is also strongly connected to music performance and music education, where he has been an active musician and guitar player and passionate promotor of the rock music, in several bands for more than a decade and a half. As a performer of original music, he has recorded successful performances at large and smaller regional festivals, such as Exit in Novi Sad, Pivolend - Skopje, Dojran-fest and others. In addition to his original projects, he also has extensive stage experience performing with various cover bands in clubs in Macedonia and the region.
Through his combination of technical, creative and artistic experience, Viktor contributes to the organisation and implementation of cultural, educational and community-based activities, particularly those involving young people and creative expression. He strongly believes in the positive impact of music on human well-being and uses music as a means of self-expression, creativity and personal development, especially when working with young people.

Ordancho Rizov graduated from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies in Skopje, with a Bachelor’s degree in Electrical Engineering in 2008. With many years of professional experience as a software engineer and IT

project manager, he has been involved in the development and implementation of numerous B2B and B2C IT projects for both domestic and international markets, including organisations such as Western Balkans Fund, RYCO, GIZ Skopje and MCMS.

In addition to his technical and project management experience, Ordancho is actively involved in IT education and digital skills development, sharing his knowledge and experience through training and educational activities. He is particularly interested in the responsible and positive use of AI in education, with a focus on using AI as a tool for learning, creativity, productivity and problem-solving.

He also supports the digitalisation of organisations, helping them explore and adopt appropriate digital tools and technologies to improve their processes, communication, services and overall efficiency. His combination of technical expertise, project management experience and educational skills enables him to contribute to projects involving digital transformation, IT education, AI literacy, innovation and the practical application of technology for social and organisational development.

Oliver Ribarov is an AI specialist, bringing over 10 years of experience in software development and 3 years of focused work in artificial intelligence. His expertise spans the full development lifecycle, from system architecture and backend engineering to intelligent AI solutions that solve real business problems. Beyond development, Oliver also handles video production, personally creating various promo videos for many IT companies, from concept to final edit. He believes AI should be practical, accessible, and measured by the value it creates, and works with companies, NGOs, universities, and startups to turn their ideas into working digital products.

Marija Dimkovska Ribarova, MA, is a Biology Engineer and Master of Biochemical Sciences with extensive professional experience in laboratory management, organisation of work processes and quality control. She has been managing a biochemical laboratory since 2014 and has strong analytical, organisational and teamwork skills. As a member of Astera’s team, she contributes to the organisation’s STEAM education and promotion activities, using her scientific background and practical experience to encourage young people, particularly girls and young women, to explore science, technology and related fields. She also supports educational and community-oriented activities promoting lifelong learning, scientific thinking, practical skills and equal opportunities for participation in STEAM.

Sara Milevska has graduated at the Faculty of Contemporary Arts in Balgrade, Serbia at the Fashion Design / Costume Design department. She has worked as costume designer on many plays for the Cultural Center "Ivan Mazov Klime" Kavadarci, National Theatre in Belgrade, D

Festival Dojran, Tikveshki Grozdober Festival. She has participated on Fashion Weekend Skopje and Balcan Art Fashion Event. She is active as youth worker and trainer for textile and clothes upcycling workshops.

Petar Jovanov is a student at the Music Academy in Shtip, Department of Ethnochoreology, with a strong dedication to preserving and promoting Macedonian traditional music, customs, dances and folk costumes. He has practical experience in traditional textile and costume making, including the use of a traditional weaving loom and traditional embroidery techniques. He is also a teacher of Macedonian folk dances, sharing his knowledge and skills with younger generations and contributing to the preservation and transmission of Macedonian intangible cultural heritage. As a member of Astera's team, he will contribute to activities related to traditional culture, heritage, creative education and intergenerational knowledge transfer, particularly those engaging young people.

What profiles and age groups of learners are concerned by the organisation's work?

Astera works with young people, adults and members of local communities, with a particular focus on learners who have fewer opportunities to access educational, cultural and digital opportunities.

The organisation's main target groups include young people aged 15–30, including secondary school and university students, young people interested in STEAM, digital technologies, creativity, entrepreneurship and culture, as well as young people from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds. Astera also works with adult learners and professionals who wish to develop their digital, professional, creative and entrepreneurial competences through lifelong learning.
In addition, Astera engages educators, youth workers, cultural practitioners and community members as learners and participants in training, workshops and other non-formal learning activities. Particular attention is given to promoting STEAM education among girls and young women, strengthening digital and AI literacy, encouraging creative and cultural participation, and supporting lifelong learning and social inclusion.

How many years of experience does the organisation have working in the field of this application? Please reply with a number of years of experience, for example '10'
1
Newcomer organization: Yes
Less experienced organization: Yes

Would you like to make any comments or add any information to the summary of your organisation's past participation?

Although Astera is a newcomer organization, its team brings more than 10 years of experience in project management and in the organisation's key areas of work. The team members have extensive experience in the development, coordination and implementation of national and EU-funded projects, including Erasmus+ projects, as well as in education, digital technologies, culture, innovation and community development. This combination of an emerging organisation and an experienced team provides Astera with a strong foundation for successful participation in European cooperation projects.

Associated persons

Legal representative/Primary Contact Person	
Title	Ms
Gender	Female
First name	Elena
Last Name	Rizova
Position	President/Legal representative
Country:	Republic of North Macedonia
Region:	Tikvesh Region
Post code:	1430
City:	Kavadarci