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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

May 2013

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Conducting creative workshops** in the course of May within the selected eight schools in eight municipalities (Kumanovo, Stip, Karpos, Tetovo, Bitola, Kicevo, Veles and Gazi Baba). These workshops were facilitated by the teachers under the mentorship of experts/artists for a group of 20-25 students that build the capacities, extend their knowledge and skills for interethnic cohesion through creative methods and approaches. The activities/workshops are implemented in the period April-June 2013.
- **Two ribbon-cutting ceremonies on the occasion of the renovation of the schools in the Municipality of Butel and the Municipality of Bitola** were organised in the month of May 2013 in cooperation with the schools and municipalities, in order to mark the completion of the renovation process as an incentive for implementation of the activities for interethnic integration in the schools and communities.
- **Three events for promotion of case studies.** In the course of the month of May 2013, three promotions of case studies were prepared and held that were developed by the four high schools in the pilot municipalities of Butel, Bitola, Tetovo and Strumica. The promotional events were held in Tetovo, Strumica and Butel and the event in Bitola will be held in June 2013. At these events, positive examples were presented through case studies for career development in multiethnic environments the aim of which is the initiating of more similar examples of interethnic cooperation.
- **Training of trainers for production of multimedia internet contents in the context of interethnic integration in education.** On 11-12 May 2013, in cooperation with the partner organization MIM, training was organized for a group of editors and journalists aimed at upgrading their skills for working with teachers and students for using multimedia accesses when creating contents that promote interethnic integration. These activities are part of the programme Youth-via-Media and they will be implemented in the schools in the selected municipalities as of September 2013.
- **Public debates** were organised and held **within the debate clubs** in four schools in the pilot municipalities. In a mixed ethnic composition, the students-debaters, through various topical themes, practiced and shared their acquired skills and capacities, though the activities that were implemented in cooperation with the partner organization Youth Education Forum.
- **Preparations, coverage and monitoring of activities within all components** were part of the activities in the course of May, aimed at the promotion and informing of the public and the communities for the activities of all components of the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project.
- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about our activities.** Part of the activities during the month of May covered regular updating of the information and publishing of news and stories about the course of the activities on the project's web site: www.pmio.mk. Furthermore, representatives of the project had an opportunity to be guests in the morning



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programme of the MTM TV channel and to share with the public the results so far in terms of the interethnic integration in education.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Preparatory workshops with the new master trainers for promotion of the interethnic integration in education.** In the course of May, the new master trainers continued with the second cycle of trainings for introduction of the concept for interethnic integration in education. At the one-day workshop held on 14 May 2013, the master trainers were informed of the strategies for introduction of inter-ethnically integrated education in the schools. At the two-day workshop held on 19 and 20 May, the master trainers participated in simulated and experiential activities through which competences were acquired for successful cascading of contents for interethnic integration in education.
- **Mentoring meetings for support of the school integration teams.** In the course of the month of May it was continued with mentoring visits of the pilot schools by the responsible mentors and representatives of the partner organisations Loja and Sumnal. The aim of the visits was to provide expert support to the school integration teams in the implementation of the following activities: school self-evaluation, planning and conducting workshop sessions for advanced training for the bilingual/trilingual schools; review and feedback on the implemented joint school activities; planning and organising joint activities among the partner schools.
- **Regional meetings with the representatives of the municipalities, the primary schools and the high schools.** On 22 and 23 May 2013, four regional meetings were held with representatives from the municipalities, the primary schools and the high schools from the Eastern, South-Western, South Eastern, Vardar and Skopje region that are included in the second phase of the implementation of the project. The purpose of the regional meetings was for the participants to be informed of the concept for interethnic integration in education and to get instructions for the commencement of the project activities.
- **Activities for promotion of interethnic integration in the education.** In the course of the month of May it was continued with the joint meetings between the partner schools with different ethnic/linguistic background from the pilot municipalities Bitola, Butel, Strumica and Tetovo. At these meetings the students presented the joint activities and projects for interethnic integration. Through the experience from these activities, the students were able to get acquainted with each other and to learn about each other in a direct communication.
- **Two-day workshop for teachers/trainers for implementation of joint recreational and sporting activities of/with the students.** The workshop held on 11-12 May in Struga was implemented for 40 teachers from 8 primary schools from 5 municipalities (Cair, Tetovo, Kumanovo, Resen and Bitola) included in the IIEP. The workshop was implemented with the conducting of theoretical and practical workshops and exercises for the purposes of training the teachers and practicing exercises for implementation of joint recreational and sporting games with the students through which influence is made in terms of the promotion of the interethnic integration in education.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **The Drama Club** of SEMS in Gostivar, on 7 May performed the play “Initiation” in the Culture and Information Centre in Skopje. The play was also attended by students from the high schools “Zdravko Cvetkovski” and “Zef Ljus Marku” from Skopje.
- **Training for the School Integration Teams (SITs) from the new monolingual demonstration schools for self-evaluation, coordination and monitoring of the school activities.** On 17 May, in the premises of the “Braka Miladinovci” school, a one-day training was



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held for the representatives of the SITs from the primary demonstration schools “Braka Miladinovci” and “Bajram Sabani” from Kumanovo. At the meeting, a detailed explanation was given about the process of self-evaluation of the schools, the manner of submission of the questionnaires, the number of copies and the manner of interpretation of the obtained data, etc. The development of action plans for the introduction of changes in the schools, as well as the monitoring of the activities were also explained from the perspective of the plans for their implementation in the schools.

- **Meetings for support with the SITs and the school teachers – implementers of project activities.** At the beginning of the month, the representatives of the Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution and the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal held two meetings for support, in the “Zdravko Cvetkovski” High School in Skopje and the “Bratstvo Edinstvo” Primary School in Ohrid. At the meetings, the strategy was also discussed for presentation of the project activities before representatives of the institutions of the education system, parents, municipality, teachers, etc.
- **Visit to the “Zdravko Cvetkovski” demonstration school from Skopje by MES representatives.** On 20 May, the working group for interethnic integration within MES met with representatives from the Bureau for Development of Education, the Centre for High School Education and Training and the Directorate for Development and Promotion of the Education in the Languages of the Members of the Communities, as well as professional associates of the MES. The working group had a meeting with representatives of the SIT of the school, teachers who implement project activities, as well as students who participate in the activities. At the meeting, the experiences and benefits were presented from the implementation of the project activities in the school.
- **Presentation of the project activities.** Two events were held at which the project activities were presented to a wider audience as follows: representatives of MES, BDE, SEI, USAID, responsible persons for education within the municipalities, parents, teachers and students. One event was held in Kicevo in the “Sande Sterjoski” school, and the other event was held in Ohrid in the “Bratsvo Edinstvo” school. The events comprised two parts. In the first part the students from different languages of instruction participated together in various cultural and artistic performances (recitals, folk dances, songs, school choir etc.) In the second part there was an exhibition of products made by the groups of students from different languages of instruction in the extracurricular activities of the schools.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Trainings for maintenance of schools – first part.** In the course of the month of May trainings for maintenance of the schools were held for 4 schools that were selected for renovation in the course of 2013. The focus of the trainings was identification of the needs of renovation, defining the priorities and preparation of applications for renovation. These trainings were attended by 38 persons, representatives from the school renovation teams.
- **Trainings for maintenance of schools – second part.** In the course of the month of May trainings for maintenance of the schools were held for 11 schools that were selected for renovation in the course of 2013. The focus of the trainings was preparation of annual plans and budget for maintenance of school buildings. These trainings were attended by 77 persons, representatives from the school renovation teams.
- **Purchase of tools for the renovated schools.** Sets of tools were purchased that are intended for maintenance of the renovated schools. In the course of May 2013, sets of tools were delivered to 9 renovated schools by means of which all the 11 schools from the pilot phase were completed.



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- **Call for registration of consulting companies for design, audit and supervision.** In the course of May, a call for registration of consulting companies for design, audit and supervision of the database of the Project was published in two daily newspapers (Dnevnik and Koha), as well as on the web site of the Project. The registered consulting companies will then be contacted for submission of bids for performing design, audit and supervision in the implementation of the projects for renovation.
- **Applications for renovation.** Upon the completion of the first part of the trainings for the school renovation teams, 9 schools submitted applications for renovation.
- **Approval of projects for renovation.** Two applications for renovation were approved, submitted by the schools selected for participation in the second phase of the Project implementation and memorandums of cooperation were signed with the mayors and the school directors.
- **Mentoring meetings in the pilot schools.** In the course of May 2013 mentoring meetings were organised with the technical personnel from the 11 pilot schools. These mentoring meetings were organised as a part of the training for strengthening the capacities of the technical personnel for maintenance of the school buildings organised in December 2012.
- **Meetings for monitoring of the works for maintenance of the schools.** Monthly meetings for monitoring of the works for maintenance of the schools were organized in the 11 pilot schools.
- **Memorandums of cooperation.** Memorandums of cooperation were signed with the director of the “Goce Delcev” school from Stip, and the Mayor of the Municipality of Stip and the director of the “Braka Miladinovci” school from Probistip, and the mayor of the Municipality of Probistip.
- **Announcing public tenders for selection of construction companies** for implementation of the activities for renovation. A tender documentation was prepared and on 31 May 2013 announcements for renovation of 2 schools from the schools selected in 2013 were published in two daily newspapers Dnevnik and Koha (Macedonian and Albanian) and on the web site of the Project.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Preparation of materials for monitoring of activities.** The list for monitoring of trainings and project activities was finalized. The summarized report on part of the activities from component 2 (training of the School Integration teams from the first phase) is in the phase of finalization. Questionnaires were distributed for evaluation of the activities from the multicultural workshops implemented in the demonstration schools in the Civil Engineering Education Centre – GUC (Skopje), Kicevo and Gostivar.
- **Evaluation activities.** Questionnaires and tables for entering data from the evaluation of the trainings organized within the components of the Interethnic Integration in Education Project were adapted and prepared.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Ribbon-cutting ceremonies in order to mark the successful completion of the renovation of the schools in the municipality of Strumica. The events will be attended by representatives of USAID, EUCOM, mayors, representatives of the educational institutions, teachers, parents, students and representatives of the local community.
- Continuation of the debating skills trainings in 4 schools in the pilot municipalities Tetovo, Bitola, Butel and Strumica, in cooperation with the partner organization Youth Education Forum (YEF).
- Finalization and promotion of a creative product in the "Slavco Stojmiski" school in the Municipality of Stip as a result of the process of creative workshops for the students from the schools in new eight municipalities.
- Preparatory activities will be implemented together with the partner organisation MIM for the purpose of preparing modules for the Youth-via-Media programme.
- Continuation of the informal regular meetings with the editors and the journalists aimed at their informing about the progress and the activities within the project.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Continuation of the regional meetings with the representatives of municipalities, primary and secondary schools which are included in the second phase of the project implementation.
- Organizing trainings with the school integration teams from the second phase of the project implementation.
- Organizing training of trainers for improvement of the conditions in the sphere of interethnic integration in the education through cooperation with the parents intended for the school support staff in the schools.
- Organizing trainings for the school support staff in 58 pilot schools aimed at improving the conditions in the sphere of interethnic integration in the education through cooperation with the parents.
- Organizing workshop for professors and assistants of the faculties of pedagogy for the purpose of introducing the concept for interethnic integration in the education in the existing curricula.
- Organizing quarterly meetings in the four pilot municipalities (Bitola, Butel, Strumica and Tetovo).

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Trainings for the school boards on the functioning in the best interest of the students.
- School presentation of the project activities in Gostivar.
- Conducting self-evaluation in every demonstration school by SIT with teachers, parents and students.
- Training of Teachers from the SEMS Gostivar, Gostivar for recognizing and opposing ethnic stereotypes and prejudices.
- Holding consultative meetings with SIT in every demonstration school.
- Holding a consultative meeting between CHRRCR and the partner organisations.
- Facilitating the school meetings in every demonstration school for coordination and development of action plans.



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Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Submission of applications for renovation from 3 schools and their approval.
- Signing memorandums of cooperation with the mayors and directors of the schools for 9 projects for renovation.
- Announcing public tenders for selection of construction companies for implementation of the activities for renovation in 9 schools.
- Monthly meetings for monitoring of the works for maintenance of the schools in 11 pilot schools.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring of the activities implemented by components.
- Preparation of checklists for monitoring the activities from component 1 and preparations for a training on the use of the checklists.
- Summarizing the reports from other activities and/or components
- Preparation of a system/database for entry and collection of the data from the monitoring checklists.