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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

October 2013

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Organizing an exhibition as a final presentation of the results from the creative workshops.** In the course of the month of October, an exhibition was organized in Kicevo which marked the successful finalization of the implemented creative workshops within the Mirko Mileski and Drita secondary schools from Kicevo. Parents, teachers and students participated in the presentation, wherein the directors and the municipality representatives were also present and addressed the attendees.
- **Organizing Forum Theatre debates.** In the course of October, using the forum theatre techniques, a debate was organized with the students from the secondary schools from the municipality of Kicevo. The debates are used as tools for discussion and resolving a given situation which reflects the current status of the school communities and the education system.
- **Implementation of trainings on production of multimedia internet contents in the context of the interethnic integration in the education.** These trainings for teachers and students continued to be organized in the course of the month and covered all secondary schools from the regions of Struga, Tetovo and Kicevo. The activities are aimed at assisting the teachers and students in developing their skills for preparation of multimedia internet contents for their schools. These activities are implemented under the leadership and mentorship of editors and journalists involved in the project.
- **The coordination meetings with the secondary schools for establishing debate clubs** continued to be organized in the course of this month for the purposes of informing and preparing the schools for the implementation of the activities within the debate clubs.
- **Interviews with famous people.** In the course of October, an interview was organized with the married couple - the famous actress from the Albanian theatre Amernis Nokshiqi - Jovanovska and the famous journalist Borjan Jovanovski, for the purposes of sharing their good experiences and examples that promote diversity and interethnic cohesion. In the interview, Amernis and Borjan talk about the relevance of such cohesion and about the very important role that the education system plays for the development of the students in such an environment. The interview was published in several media and social networks, and you can find it at the following link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQkrEbOypMI&feature=youtu.be>
- **Guest appearance at 24 Vesti.** Two IIEP team representatives made a guest appearance in the TV show *About Life* on 24 Vesti in order to share experiences and talk about the progress and the changes that happen within the schools as a result of the activities that are implemented for promotion of the interethnic integration in education. The complete video of the guest appearance can be seen at the following link: <http://www.24vesti.mk/za-zhivotot-25-10-2013>.



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- **Appearance at the debate on Radio MOF.** The Chief of Party of USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project, Nebojsa Mojsoski participated in the debate *Does education in Macedonia promote coexistence?*, which was organized by MOF and at which there was a debate and discussion about the importance of the interethnic cooperation and cohesion in the education. The debate can be heard at the following link: <http://www.mixcloud.com/radioMOF/debatiranjeto-menuva-7/>.
- **The regular informing of the institutions, municipalities and schools about the activities** during the month of October 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.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Training on the parents' involvement.** In the course of the month, trainings were organized for 7 groups of students from the primary schools and the secondary schools from phase 2. The representatives of the professional services got information aimed at promotion of their skills and competences for involvement of the parents in the activities for making changes in the interethnic integration in and between schools. The trainings were implemented in cooperation with the master trainers and the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal.
- **A questionnaire was sent to all primary schools and high schools in the pilot phase and phase 2** about the readiness of the parents to join and to contribute to the IIEP activities.
- **Joint sports activities of 4 primary schools.** These activities took place in Tetovo where about 180 students participated from the schools Naim Fraseri and A.S. Kikis – Tetovo, Kiril and Metodij – Romanovce and Brakja Ribar – Tabanovce. Representatives from the municipalities also participated in the event and it was covered by the media (Alsat, Kiss, etc.).
- **Second workshop for the teaching staff from the faculties of pedagogy.** This workshop was held for the purposes of continuation of the activities of the participants for consideration of the possibilities for integration of modules for interethnic integration in education in the subjects that are taught at the faculties of pedagogy.
- **Mentoring meetings with the school integration teams from the school from the second phase.** These meetings were held with the school integration teams from 190 primary and secondary schools (split in 36 groups at a regional level). At the mentoring meetings, the school integration teams deepened their knowledge and competences necessary for successful transfer of the contents related to interethnic integration in education to the colleagues in their schools.
- **Mentoring meetings with the schools from the pilot phase.** In the course of October, meetings were organized with representatives of the school integration teams from 58 primary schools and high schools. The goal of the mentoring meetings was to reflect upon the joint student activities implemented thus far, by using criteria for successful implementation of joint activities.
- **Dissemination of the trainings for interethnic integration in the schools from the second phase.** The dissemination, as an important process, started this month at a school level by the school integration teams. The purpose of these trainings is for the entire school to be familiarized with the concept for interethnic integration that promotes a model of education in which the students from different ethnic communities are enabled to participate in joint activities.



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Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Module for the school communities.** The IIEP team developed a module for operation of the school communities in the model schools based on experiential learning.
- **Training for the presidencies of the school communities for making student initiatives.** In the course of the month, five trainings were held, one in each demonstration school/partner school. The trainings were attended by the selected representatives of the school communities. The trainings comprised of several workshops through which the students adopted the basic concepts for acting through the school community. Also, the action plans were developed for making student initiatives for collection of funds that would be invested in order to make some changes in the schools.
- **Organization of performances and excursions.** In Kumanovo, in the Brakja Miladinovci demonstration school, a performance was organized on the occasion of the international teachers' day, at which event there were guests from the partner school Bajram Shabani, who performed one separate and one joint activity. In Kicevo, in the Sande Sterjoski school, on the occasion of the children's week, an integrated performance was organized with joint presentation of all acts with students from all languages of instruction. At the same time, a one-day excursion was also organized at which *Games without Boundaries* were held with participants from all languages of instruction. On the occasion of the Kurban Bajram holiday, the Sande Sterjoski school organized a workshop for making traditional cookies, which workshop was attended by teachers and students from all languages of instruction, after which a cocktail was organized that was attended by teachers and parents from all schools from the city.
- **Training for multicultural workshops.** In the course of the month, one-day training was organized for new implementers of multicultural workshops with teachers from all demonstration schools. The goal of the training was to demonstrate the model and the features of conducting bilingual workshops, wherein on the following trainings the teachers will simulate the workshops received by them as assignments for exercising purposes.
- **Support meetings.** In October, four support meetings were implemented with four demonstration schools. The meetings were attended by members of the school integration teams who are responsible for support and internal monitoring of the different categories of activities, as well as teachers who implement such activities.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Memorandum of cooperation.** A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the municipality of Kocani and the Nikola Karev Primary School for implementation of the project for "Superstructure of main entrance in the school". The Memorandum of cooperation regulates the obligations of the IIEP, the municipality of Kocani and the Nikola Karev Primary School.
- **Tender procedure for selection of a contractor.** A public call was announced for collection of bids for the selection of a contractor for the implementation of the project for construction of the main entrance in the Nikola Karev Primary School in Kocani. The bids were opened, interviews were conducted with the bidders who submitted the cheapest offers and the most favorable bidder was selected.
- **Cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science/Section for Capital Investments (MSE/SCI).** Meetings were held with representatives of MSE/SCI where it was agreed for MSE/SCI and IIEP to jointly involve themselves in the activities for construction of a main entrance in the Nikola Karev Primary School from Kocani, as well as



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to take part in the trainings for capacity building of schools for maintenance of the school buildings.

- **Mentoring meetings.** Upon the completion of module 1 of the training for maintenance of the schools, mentoring meetings were organized in five schools in order to monitor the work of the schools in terms of preparation of annual plans and budgets for maintenance. With the latest five mentoring visits inclusive, mentoring visits were made to all eleven schools selected for renovation in the course of 2013.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring and evaluation activities.** In the course of October, the activities were monitored that were implemented within the components and evaluation questionnaires were prepared. A discussion meeting was held with reference to the preparation of the questionnaires for evaluation of the project activities.
- **Summarized report.** A summarized version was prepared with data about the project activities.
- **Baseline study.** A meeting was held for discussion about the adaptation of the questionnaires from the electronic baseline survey.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Organizing one-day workshops for the members of the school integration teams from the regions of Skopje, Veles, Struga, Kumanovo, Tetovo and Bitola for effective public presentations in the context of interethnic integration in education.
- Organizing two trainings for production of multimedia internet contents in the context of the interethnic integration in education for teachers and students from the secondary schools from the regions of Bitola and Strumica.
- Organizing two events for a promotion of a final product as a result of the creative workshops implemented in the Josip Broz Tito secondary school in the municipality of Bitola and the Koco Racin secondary school in the municipality of Veles.
- Organizing forum theatre debates for the students from all secondary schools from the municipality of Bitola and the municipality of Veles.
- Establishment of the clubs and their operationalization in 8 schools in the municipalities of Veles, Kumanovo, Struga, Stip, Kicevo, Kratovo, Centar and Gazi Baba.
- Organizing three ribbon-cutting ceremonies on the occasion of the completion of the renovation of the schools: Hristijan Todorovski – Karpos from the municipality of Staro Nagoricane, Kiril i Metodij in the v. Zletovo (regional branch school of the central primary school Brakja Miladinovci) from the municipality of Probistip, and Nace Bugjoni from the municipality of Kumanovo.
- 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

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Cycle of trainings for the role of the School Boards for interethnic integration in education in the primary schools and the secondary schools in phase 2.
- Continuation of the dissemination of the trainings for interethnic integration in the schools from the second phase.
- Field visit and support to the two/three lingual schools from the pilot phase by the partner organizations.
- Continuous support of the schools from the second phase by the partner organizations.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Testing for assessment of the effects and the progress of the students from the groups included in the multicultural workshops.
- Training organized with the professional service and the management on the promotion of the multicultural value in the schools.
- Training for teachers for implementation of multicultural workshops – part II.
- Holding regular support meetings in all demonstration schools.
- Monitoring of the current activities in the demonstration schools.



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Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Starting the activities for renovation in the Nikola Karev primary school in the municipality of Kocani.
- Organizing a training for the technical personnel and the secretaries from the schools (that are renovated in the course of 2013).
- Organizing monthly meetings for monitoring of the works for maintenance in the pilot schools.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring the activities implemented by components.
- Finalization of the report from the monitoring of the activities from component 4.
- Preparation of lists for evaluation of the activities within the components.
- Preparation of questionnaires for evaluation of the activities of the project and for the electronic baselines study.