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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

January 2014

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Preparatory meetings in the six new municipalities from Phase 3.** In cooperation with the partner organization Performing Arts Center “Multimedia”, the team held meetings in the following municipalities: Kavadarci, Kochani, Prilep, Gostivar, Ohrid and Skopje that are included in Phase 3 of IIEP. The project activities were presented at the meetings with the representatives of the educational sector in the municipalities and the high schools that will be included in the trainings and creative workshops for the promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.
- **Meetings with the selected schools from Phase 3.** The team held meetings with the directors of the following secondary schools: “Dobri Daskalot” from Kavadarci, “Orde Chopela” from Prilep, “Ljupcho Santov” from Kochani, Municipal Technical High School MTHS “Gostivar” from Gostivar, “St. Kliment Ohridski” secondary school from Ohrid and the secondary school of commerce “Cvetan Dimov” from Skopje, in order to present the concept of activities and to mutually decide upon the selection of teachers/coordinators and the implementation dynamics.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Implementing a second mentoring meeting with the school integration teams from Phase 2.** The last mentoring meetings with the school integration teams were held with a group of 36 schools from Phase 2. During the mentoring meetings, a reflection of the implemented activities (dissemination trainings, annual work plans of schools) was made, and the criteria for successful implementation and monitoring of joint student activities was discussed. An overview was made and feedback was obtained regarding the implemented activities referring to School Boards and cooperation with parents. The mentoring meetings were implemented in cooperation with the mentors and partner organizations Loja and Sumnal.
- **Administrative support offered by partner organizations.** The teams of the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal continued supporting the schools from Phase 2 regarding the collection of data on implemented disseminations, established partnerships, as well as the self- evaluation conducted in the schools.
- **Forum on Interethnic Integration in Education.** The Forum on Interethnic Integration in Education for teacher training faculties in Macedonia was held with the aim of developing the concept of interethnic integration in education in the teacher training faculties. Representatives of USAID Macedonia, the partner organization Loja, all educational institutions in Macedonia and representatives of the management of the faculties of pedagogy attended the Forum.



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Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Debriefing meetings with SIT and the implementers of activities.** During this month, five meetings (one in each model school) were held. Apart from the responsible persons from the SIT, the project implementers also attended the meeting. These meetings were organized in two parts. In the first part, the participants identified the best practices as well as what can be improved during the implementation of the project activities. In the second part, a model for creating a promotional presentation of the project was presented, which was later followed by a discussion on organizing a promotional event.
- **Promotional events.** Three events for promotion of the model school project activities were organized in the course of this month. On each event a presentation was organized regarding what has been worked on in the model schools in the first semester, and each school staged a performing act. Teachers, parents, representatives of other local schools, representatives of crucial educational institutions (MES, SEI, BDE, VETC), representatives of the community and representatives of the local media attended the events.
- **Training for school boards.** The School Boards from all model schools took part in a joint two-day training. Councilors from BDE, responsible for monitoring the activities in model schools, and representatives of the partner organization Sumnal attended the training. The training included sensitization of the members of the School Board regarding the activities of IIE particularly by focusing on their role in offering support and promotion of the integration using the competences they have.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Renovation activities.** The activities for building a main entrance in the “Nikola Karev” primary school in the municipality of Kochani are ongoing and are performed in partnership with the MSE/SCI.
- **Meeting with the component working group.** Meeting of the Component 4 working group composed of representatives of USAID, the United States European Command, the Ministry of Education and Science/Department for Capital Investments, councilors for technical support from USAID for MES and representatives of IIEP was held. The working group discussed the achievements within the component for 2013 and the work plan for 2014.
- **Municipalities and schools participation in the renovation process.** The documentation process for the schools and municipalities participation in the renovation activities is in progress and the criteria for minimum 10% participation ought to be met.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** All data from the monitoring activities from all pilot schools and model schools where joint student activities were implemented were gathered and classified. Several meetings related to the data obtained from the monitoring were held.
- **Evaluation activities.** An evaluation report on the effects of IIE’s activities in all pilot and model schools in which joint student activities took place is being finalized.
- **Baseline study.** Meetings were held for the preparation of electronic application for electronic research which will be conducted at the end of the school year in all schools included in the IIE activities.



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II. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 – Community Outreach

- Preparatory phase for making the educational documentary “7x7” in cooperation with the Macedonian Institute for Media.
- Training for trainers for creative workshops for promotion of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.
- Preparations for training for producing multimedia contents for teachers and students in secondary schools.
- Preparation for forum theatre for the IIEP team, USAID representatives and partner organizations.
- Arranging informal meetings with editors and journalists.
- Regular update of information and publishing news and stories while the activities are being implemented on the project web site www.pmio.mk.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Meeting of the working groups of component 2 and 3.
- Realization of introductory regional meetings with community representatives and representatives of schools from Phase 3.
- Meeting with the working group of the National Examination Center for embedding the interethnic integration in education concept in the program for the training for school principals.
- Meetings with the management of the schools selected for implementation of the program for joint sports and fun activities of/with students.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Training for parents for their inclusion in the curricular activities.
- Training for teachers who perform joint extracurricular activities for multimedia coverage of events/activities.
- Performing monitoring/mentoring meetings for support in each model school.
- Consultative meetings with partner organizations and councilors from the BDE.
- Training for the SIT members for activities coordination.
- Creating and piloting bilingual workshops with students.
- Signing Memorandum of Understanding with the “Bratstvo-Edinstvo” primary school from Ohrid.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Announcing the public call for applications for the selection of 10 new schools in the activities of Component 4 for 2014. The call for application will last from 3rd until the 17th of February, 2014. The list of 137 invited schools from 30 municipalities and the application documents along with the details about the method of applying and application deadline are published on the project web site.
- The members of the working group will collect, review and assess the submitted applications.
- A meeting with the working group for ranking the submitted applications will be arranged.
- Technical acceptance of the activities for building the main entrance in the school facility in “Nikola Karev” primary school in the municipality of Kocani financed by IIEP and the perpetuation of the activities financed by MoES/SCI.



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- Keeping records of the participation of municipalities and schools in the renovation activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- The monitoring activities are performed according to components.
- Preparation of the report from the monitoring activities in the pilot and model schools in which the joint student activities have been implemented.
- Preparations for the adaptation of an application for electronic research and monitoring activities in the schools of the Phase 2.
- Preparation of evaluation questionnaires for the project activities.