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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

February 2014

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1- Community Outreach

- **Training of trainers for creative workshops.** The training for a team of teachers from the six selected schools from the Municipalities (Kocani, Kavadarci, Prilep, Ohrid, Gostivar and Skopje) took place from 26 to 28th March 2014, in order to build their capacities for preparing modules and implementing the 12 forthcoming creative workshops with the students. These activities are implemented in cooperation with a partner organization, CIU Multimedia. On the training 12 teachers from the six schools together with artists and experts who conducted the training were present.
- **Preparations for trainings for teachers and students on production of multimedia internet contents** in the context of the interethnic integration in education were conducted in cooperation with a partner organization MIM. The purpose of these trainings is to improve the skills of the teachers and students for using multimedia approach when creating contents which promote interethnic integration.
- **Preparation for organizing Forum theatre debates.** During the month of February preparations were made for organizing the IIEP debate team, USAID representatives, partner organizations and master trainers. The debates are used as tools for discussion and solving the given situation which reflects the current state of the school communities and the education system.
- **Regularly informing the institutions, municipalities and the schools for the activities.** Part of the activities in the course of March include a regular updating of the information and publishing of the 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

- **Regional meetings with representatives from the municipalities, the primary and the secondary schools from Phase 3.** Seven regional meetings were organized in Kocani, Kavadarci, Prilep, Gostivar, Ohrid and two groups in Skopje with representatives from the municipalities, the primary and secondary schools from the eastern, Polog, Vardar, Pelagonia and south-western region, which are included in Phase 3 of the project implementation. The regional meetings aimed at introducing the participants with the concept of interethnic integration in education, and to give information about the beginning of the following project activities.
- **Preparation of a one-day workshop with the master trainers for mentor support.** The goal of the workshop is to strengthen the skills of the master trainers for mentoring by practicing the techniques and strategies for providing feedback on implementation of joint activities of the students of mixed ethnicity. Final preparations for the



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implementation of the trainings of the teams for school integration from phase 3 of the project implementation have also been envisioned.

- **Preparation of trainings for school integration teams from the schools included in the phase 3.** A revision has been made of the basic module in which the practical activities and video presentation with examples of the successful practices were added, which would contribute to the acquisition of competencies of the teachers to promote the interethnic integration in education.
The preparations for implementing joint activities with groups of students with mixed ethnic/language structure. Meetings were held with the management of the 10 selected multilingual schools for implementing the joint sports and fun activities with the students during 2014.

Component 3 – Demonstration schools

- **Consulting meeting with the partner organizations and councilors from BDE responsible for the demonstration schools.** Prior to the support meetings for the current month, all partners who monitor the field activities, attended the joint meeting where experiences from the first half of the year were shared and the challenges of the second half were identified. Additional information for the implementation of the support meetings was provided, and the annual work plan of the demonstration schools was reviewed.
- **Support meetings.** Four support meetings were implemented by the end of the month in four demonstration schools by the IIEP team (experts from the CHRRCR, representatives from the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal, as well as councilors from BDE). The focus of the meetings was to monitor the activities and have discussions with the implementers of activities and the responsible person from the SIT. On the meetings it was discussed about ensuring a better quality of all the activities in terms of achieving interethnic integration.
- **Training for involving the parents in the school activities.** Three trainings have been organized in the course of this month with participating parents from six demonstration schools. On the trainings the parents worked on building the concept of an ideal school in terms of interethnic integration followed by suggested activities that the parents themselves would take on. Each school chose two activities for which they have made specific action plans. It is foreseen to implement the activities by having the parents, students and teachers participating during the second half of the year.
- **Training for building group cohesion with the SIT members from the demonstration schools.** Two trainings were held in the course of February, one with the SIT of all the primary demonstration schools and one with the SIT of the secondary demonstration schools. The purpose of the training was building a group cohesion and cooperation between the members of the SIT in each school. The students cooperated with each other in implementing certain tasks through games and in a relaxed atmosphere. A reflection of how the activities were implemented was made at the end of each session.
- **The training for production of multimedia internet contents in the context of interethnic integration in education.** Towards the end of the month, two trainings were conducted in cooperation with a partner organization MIM for implementers of activities from demonstration schools. The training aimed at providing basic skills and



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knowledge for creating multimedia contents based on current project activities that would be promoted in public.

- **Memorandum of cooperation.** On February 24 a Memorandum of cooperation has been signed between the Municipality of Ohrid, Bratstvo Edinstvo primary school and IIEP.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to schools and Communities

- **Call for application.** Letters were sent to all the secondary and primary schools and municipalities eligible to apply for the selection of 10 new schools in the activities of the component 4 for 2014. The list of 138 invited schools from 30 municipalities and the application documents together with details about the way and the application deadline were uploaded on the project's website.
- **Selection of 10 schools.** Applications from 99 schools were received, which represents 70% response. The submitted application packages and the assessment criteria are provided to the members of the working group, who by March 3rd should evaluate all the applications and submit the results to the component 4.
- **Selection of 3 demonstration schools that will be involved in component 4 in 2014.** In cooperation with component 3 – Demonstration schools, the criteria have been defined for ranking of demonstration schools. Based on the criteria of the Commission of C3 assessed all six demonstration schools, and the following highly ranked schools will be involved in C4 in 2014: Bratstvo Edinstvo Primary School in Ohrid; Sande Shterjoski Primary School in Kicevo, and Gostivar Secondary School in Gostivar.
- **Technical admission in Nikola Karev primary school in the municipality of Kocani.** A technical admission of the activities for building the main entrance in the school building funded by IIEP has been made. The execution of the activities funded by MSE is in progress.
- **Participation of the municipalities and schools in the process of renovation.** The process of documenting the participation of the municipalities and school in the activities for renovating which should obtain the needed minimum of 10% is currently in progress.

Monitoring and evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** The gathering of data and the preparation of the report from the monitoring of the activities from all pilot schools was prepared. A joint meeting and several separate meetings with the people from the partner organizations, who were present during the monitoring activities related to the data obtained from the monitoring were conducted. The preparations for the monitoring of the activities in the schools from the second phase are in progress.
- **Activities for evaluation.** The preparations of the field research (evaluation of the effects of IIE activities and focus groups with students) are in progress.
- **Baseline study.** The preparation of the application for electronic research is in progress.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 – Informing the Public and the Communities

- Meeting of the team that will work on the educational documentary 7x7 in cooperation with the Macedonian Institute for Media and the Macedonian Radio Television.
- Trainings for the teachers and students for production of multimedia internet contents in Skopje and Kavadarci.
- Forum Theatre debates for the IIEP team, USAID representatives, partner organizations and master trainers involved in the project.
- Realization of informal meetings with the editor and journalists.
- Regular updating of information and publication of news and stories about the progress of the activities on the project's web site www.pmio.mk.

Component 2 – Building Capacities of School Management and Teachers

- Organizing a one-day workshop for the master trainers.
- Organizing trainings for school integration teams from the schools involved in phase 3.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Organizing monitoring/mentorship meetings for the support of each demonstration school.
- Creating and piloting workshops for learning a language.
- Continuous support in carrying out the current activities in the schools.

Component 4 – Incentive for the schools

- Organizing a meeting with the working group for ranking the received applications and the selection of 10 schools for phase 3.
- Forming school renovation teams (SRT) in 13 schools (10 in phase 3 and three demonstration schools).
- Technical admission of the activities for building a main entrance of the school building in Nikola Karev primary school in municipality of Kocani funded by MSE.
- Monthly meetings to monitor the work of maintenance of schools in 11 schools in phase 2.
- Documenting the participation of the municipalities and schools in the activities for renovating.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring the activities implemented within components.
- Finalization of the report of the monitoring of the activities and writing a combined report with the evaluation report.
- Preparing an application for electronic research and for monitoring of the activities in the schools in phase 2.
- Preparation of the questionnaires for evaluation of the project activities.