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## Interethnic Integration in Education Project

### MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

March 2014

#### I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

##### Component 1 – Community Outreach

- **Organizing a Forum Theatre debate.** In March, a forum theatre debate was organized for the IIEP team, the partner organizations, the representatives of USAID, as well as the master trainers involved in the project. The debate was used as a tool for discussion and resolution of a given situation that reflects the current situation of the educational system.
- **Conducting two trainings on producing multimedia Internet contents in the context of interethnic integration in education.** These trainings for teachers and students were conducted for the secondary schools from the regions of Skopje and Kavadarci. The activities are designed to help teachers and students develop skills for producing multimedia Internet contents for their schools. The activities are being conducted under the guidance and mentorship of editors and journalists involved in the project.
- **A public debate within the debate club in the Municipality of Kumanovo.** Student debaters of different ethnic backgrounds, elaborated on the topic “Ethnically divided facilities (do not) hinder integration”, where they shared their views and opinions, and demonstrated their debating skills. This activity is being conducted in cooperation with the partner organization Youth Education Forum.
- **Conducting creative workshops** during the month of March at the six selected schools in the municipalities of Kocani, Kavadarci, Gostivar, Prilep, Ohrid and the City of Skopje. These workshops are facilitated by the teachers, under the mentorship of experts/artists for a group of 20-25 students who are increasing their potential and expanding their knowledge and skills for interethnic cohesion by means of creative methods and approaches.
- **The production of a short video with participants in the creative workshops.** On the occasion of March 8, Women’s Day, the IIEP made a short video with two female students from Arseni Jovkov secondary school who participated in the school’s creative workshops. In the video, Magdalena and Artiana describe how the process brought them closer together, as well as the benefits from the process. The video can be viewed in the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuyZ7KiHGxA>
- **The production of a short video about the activities of partner schools.** The IIEP, in cooperation with the partner organization MIM, made a short video about the visit of the partner school Marshal Tito from Strumica to the primary school Liman Kaba from the village of Ljuboten, during which a number of religious and historical landmarks were visited. The video can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0yHgfBY8taE>
- **Regularly informing the institutions, municipalities, and schools about the activities.** Part of the activities during the month of March included regular updating of information and publishing news and stories about the activities on the project website [www.pmio.mk](http://www.pmio.mk). In addition, the first issue of the IIEP media Newsletter was prepared and shared with all media in Macedonia.



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### Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Revising the basic module.** A revision of the basic module has been made with the addition of practical activities and a video presentation with examples of successful practices for the advancement of the interethnic integration in education. A session was added for monitoring IIE activities on a school level, and changes were made in the annual planning and the planning of specific IIE activities.
- **One-day workshop with the master trainers for mentoring meetings.** The goal was to develop the mentoring skills of master trainers by means of applying techniques and strategies for giving feedback regarding joint activities of students with mixed ethnicity. A separate session was dedicated to the mentoring meetings which will be held with representatives of professional services, school boards, and persons responsible for education in the municipality. In addition, an IIEP monitoring session was conducted for schools from Phase 2.
- **Trainings for school integration teams from Phase 3.** Throughout this month, 16 training groups were conducted for school integration teams included in Phase 3. The main objective of the trainings was to introduce the participants with the concept of interethnic integration in education which promotes an education model that enables the students to have joint curricular and extracurricular activities within mixed ethnic/lingual student groups.
- **Adjusting the instruments in the Manual for Integral Evaluation with the State Education Inspectorate.** This activity allowed for the inclusion of elements of interethnic integration in the respective instruments used in integral evaluation.
- **A detailed action plan for future activities with the teacher training faculties,** together with the partner organization Loja. A meeting was held with the associate deans of the Teacher Training Faculty "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Bitola, about the planned IIEP activities and the participation of the professors in the Regional Conference on including the Education for Peace programs at the university level. The associate deans agreed to the planned activities and the proposed participants.
- **Two-day workshop for training teachers-trainers on joint sports and recreational activities of/with the students.** The training session in Struga was attended by teachers from 10 primary multilingual schools. The goal of the training was for teachers to become acquainted with, and practically experience the approaches and techniques for applying the IIE concept through sports and recreational activities with the students.

### Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Support meetings.** Four support meetings were held by the IIEP team in the demonstration schools with multiple languages of instruction. The focus of the meetings was the monitoring of activities, as well as discussions with implementers of activities and responsible persons from the SIT. The discussions at the meetings centred on how to ensure a better quality of the activities in terms of achieving interethnic integration. The implementers were directed to collect as much multimedia content as they could, for the purpose of organizing final promotional events.
- **Piloting language acquisition workshops.** Throughout the month, Petar Zdravkovski PENKO primary school from Skopje was involved in the implementation of the piloting language acquisition workshops program. Two groups were created, each comprised of 20 students studying in Macedonian and Albanian languages of instruction. Four



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workshops were held, two for each group. The workshops are created by the CHRRC team, with external collaborators also involved in the implementation.

- **Performances at demonstration schools.** Four performances were organized in March, two at Bratstvo Edinstvo primary school in Ohrid, and two at secondary schools in Gostivar and Skopje. In Ohrid, one of the performances was held on the occasion of March 7, Albanian Teacher's Day, and the other marked Women's Day – March 8, whereas both performances in Gostivar and Skopje were organized to celebrate Albanian Teacher's Day. All performances involved integrated acts, prepared and presented by students studying in different languages of instruction.
- **Parent initiatives.** In March, several parent initiated activities were conducted. At Bratstvo Edinstvo primary school in Ohrid, the parents organized a celebration of Letnik (March 14), attended by teachers, elementary school students, and representatives from the municipality. At Sande Sterjoski primary school in Kicevo, a group of parents from different languages of instruction participated in making paper decorations for Spring Day. The vocational high school Zdravko Cvetkovski from Skopje organized the planting of roses in the school yard. Parents, teachers, and students all participated in the activity. At the vocational high school of economics in Gostivar, the parents organized a soccer tournament. A team comprised of parents competed against a team comprised of students. Both teams were comprised of participants of mixed ethnicities.
- **Activities of school communities.** At Bratstvo Edinstvo primary school in Ohrid, two activities were organized through the school community leadership. A party was organized for all students in the school. A symbolic fee was charged for admission, and the funds raised will be invested in the school. In addition, a sports game was organized featuring two teams, both of which were comprised of students studying in different languages of instruction.
- **Workshop with the SIT from the partner demonstration schools.** For the purpose of developing a strategy for further implementation of project activities, the SIT from the two schools in Kumanovo, in the presence of BDE advisors, attended a workshop during which the effects of the project activities were appraised. Several ideas were discussed regarding greater security of children from both schools, and a parents council meeting was agreed upon, where parents could comment on the ideas offered.

### Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Selection of 10 schools.** The working group evaluated the applications submitted by 99 schools and, by summarizing the results; they determined a list of 10 schools to be included in the activities of the component in Phase 3.

Selected Schools in Component 4 – Phase 3					
1	Pelagonia	Prilep	Topolcani	primary school	Krume Volnaroski
2	Skopje	Kisela Voda	Dracevo	primary school	Kuzman Sapkarev
3	Polog	Gostivar	Cajle	primary school	Cajla
4	Pelagonia	Krivogastani	Obrsani	primary school	Jonce Smugreski
5	Skopje	Gjorce Petrov	Skopje	primary school	Gjorce Petrov



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6	Skopje	Ilinden	Ilinden	primary school	Goce Delcev
7	Pelagonia	Krusevo	Krusevo	secondary school	Naum Naumovski Borce
8	Southeast	Bogdanci	Bogdanci	secondary school	Bogdanci
9	Polog	Vrapciste	Vrapciste	primary school	Vrapciste (Cede Filiposki)
10	Southwest	Debar	Dolno Kosovrasti	primary school	Riste Ristevski

Letters with the selection results were sent to all schools and municipalities that have submitted applications. The list of 10 selected schools has been posted on <http://pmio.mk/news/>.

- **Creating School Renovation Teams (SRTs).** Introductory meetings were held in 10 schools, eight from phase 3 and two demonstration schools, attended by the Component 4 team. Second meetings were held in six schools, during which school renovation teams were created. The school renovation teams are comprised of five to eight members, representing all communities, reflecting the composition of the environment in which the school operates.
- **Participation of the municipalities and schools in the renovation process.** There is currently an ongoing process of documenting the participation of the municipalities and schools in the renovation activities, which must satisfy the required minimum of 10% participation.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** Activities involved data collection and preparing a report on the monitoring of activities from all pilot schools. One joint meeting and several separate meetings were held with the representatives from the partner organizations that were present at the monitoring activities regarding the data generated from the monitoring. Preparations for the monitoring of activities in schools from Phase 2 are underway.
- **Evaluation activities.** Preparations for field research (evaluation of the effects of IIE activities and focus groups with students) are underway.
- **Baseline study.** The preparation of an electronic application for electronic research is underway.



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### II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

#### Component 1 – Community Outreach

- Meeting of the team that will be working on the educational documentary film “7x7” in cooperation with the Macedonian Institute for Media and the Macedonian Radio Television.
- Trainings for teachers and students on producing multimedia Internet contents in Prilep, Kocani, and Skopje.
- Forum Theatre debates for teachers, and participants in the trainings on interethnic integration in education.
- Conducting informal meetings with editors and journalists.
- Regular updating of information and publication of news and stories about the activities on the project website [www.pmio.mk](http://www.pmio.mk).

#### Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Conducting two-day and one-day trainings for school integration teams from schools involved in Phase 3;
- Mentoring meetings with the representatives of professional services, the school boards, and the persons responsible for education in the municipality;
- Supporting Loja in the organization of the Regional Conference on including the Education for Peace programs at the university level. After the conference, organizing a meeting with the participants from the teacher training faculties for the purpose of providing detailed structure of the activities for preparation of the manual, and implementing the IIE concept in the course programs;
- Support visits to the 10 schools with multiple languages of instruction for the purpose of organizing joint sports and recreational activities with the students.

#### Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Conducting monitoring/mentoring support meetings in every demonstration school.
- Creating and piloting additional language acquisition workshops.
- Continued support in the implementation of ongoing activities at schools.

#### Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Forming School Renovation Teams (SRTs). Introductory meetings will be held in three schools, two from Phase 3 and one demonstration school, attended by the Component 4 team, whereas second meetings will be held at seven schools for the purpose of forming school renovation teams.
- Organizing trainings for SRTs. At schools from Phase 3, trainings will be held for the purpose of determining the needs for renovation and preparation of an application and the budget for renovation;
- Technical acceptance of activities for construction of a main entrance to the school building of Nikola Karev primary school in the Municipality of Kocani, funded by the Ministry of Education and Science/Department of Capital Investments (MoES/DCI).
- Monthly meetings for the purpose of monitoring the school maintenance activities in 11 schools from Phase 2.
- Documenting the participation of municipalities and schools in the renovation activities.





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### Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring the activities implemented by components.
- Finalizing the report from the monitoring of activities and writing a combined report with the evaluation report.
- Preparing an application for the electronic research and for monitoring of the activities at schools from Phase 2.
- Preparing questionnaires for evaluation of the project activities.