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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

May 2014

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Implementation of a training on production of multimedia internet contents in the context of the interethnic integration in the education.** Two students and teachers from each secondary school in Vrapciste, Gostivar, Ohrid and Centar Zupa attended the training. These trainings shall help the teachers and the students to develop the skills necessary for the production of multimedia internet contents which shall be used for the promotion of their schools. These activities are implemented under the leadership and mentorship of editors and journalists that are involved in the project.
- **Public debates within the activity “Debates on Integration in School”.** Ethnically mixed students-debaters from the secondary schools “Josip Broz - Tito” and “Cvetan Dimov” in the municipality of Cair expressed their views on the topic “The formal education should (not) be the main pillar of the interethnic integration”. A public debate was held in Struga as well with students from the “Niko Nestor” and “Ibrahim Temo” on the topic “Formal education as a key factor of integration”, where the young debaters showed their debating skills.
- **Presentation of the final results from the Case Study** in a polyclinic Vitalino in Veles. The students from the SS "Dimitrija Cupovski" secondary school presented the case study through a promotion of the research and the video which they produced about the field visits to the polyclinic. The research team of ten student was comprised of two representatives from each ethnic community present in the school.
- **Ribbon cutting ceremony in “Vanco Prke” from Vinica and “Gjorgji Sugarev” from Bitola.** On the occasion of the completion of the renovation process, the Municipalities of Vinica and "Vanco Prke" secondary school and the municipality of Bitola and the "Gjorgji Sugarev" primary school hosted a ribbon cutting ceremonies that were attended by senior representatives of the European Command of the U.S. Army, representatives of the USAID, mayors, directors, parents, teachers and students.
- **Attending and documenting of joint student activities.** In the month of May, joint student activities were implemented between the partner schools “Braka Ramiz Hamid” from Suto Rizari and “7 Marsi” from Cair, between the central and the regional primary school “Aleksandar Urdarevski” from Cucer Sandevo, as well as joint sports activities in the primary school “Alija Avodovic” from Studenicani. Videos and stories from these events were published on the IIEP web page.
- **Organization of three Forum theatre debates in Skopje.** In the month of May, using the forum theatre techniques, debates were organized with the members of the School Integration Teams from the secondary schools and the primary schools from several municipalities. The debates are used as tools for discussion and resolving a given situation which reflects the current situation of the schools and the education system.



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- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about our activities.** Part of the activities in 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, the second edition of the IIEP Media Digest was prepared and disseminated to all media in Macedonia.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Third mentoring meeting for schools from Phase 2.** The mentoring meetings for support of the teams for school integration continued during the month. The main aim of the mentoring meetings was to reflect on the implemented joint activities and to provide feedback for improvement of the group work during the joint activities that enables a better cooperation and interaction among the students from different ethnic background.
- **Preparation of the first mentoring meeting with the schools from Phase 3.** A preparation was made for implementation of joint mentoring meetings with 182 schools from Phase 3 that were divided into 30 groups of schools. The aim of the mentoring meetings was providing expert support for the school integration teams for the implementation of the trainings for dissemination at school level.
- **Promotional events for joint activities of the schools from Phase 2.** Visits were made to promotional events among the partner schools where joint activities were presented for professional cooperation among the teachers and joint activities among students from different ethnic communities – school celebrations with music and folklore acts, display of projects from the work of the school clubs, games without frontiers, etc.
- **Mentoring meeting with representatives of professional services, School Boards and persons from the municipality officials responsible for education in the schools from the Pilot Phase and Phase 2.** The mentoring meetings for the said representatives, divided into 15 groups, continued throughout the month. The aim of these mentoring meetings was to obtain feedback from the schools on the status of the realization of the IIE activities, as well as to provide expert support in the further implementation of these activities.
- **Realized joint sports and entertainment activities** with the students and teachers in nine primary schools.
- **Participation in the Regional Conference for Education for Peace** at university level, where a working meeting was held with the present professors from the teacher training faculties aimed at planning the forthcoming IIEP activities.
- **Working meeting with the professors from the teacher training faculties** about the manners and contents for incorporation of the IIE concept in the separate curriculums and definition of the strategy for preparation of the structure and the contents of the Guideline for IIE for the teacher training faculties.

Component 3 - Demonstration Schools

- **Meetings for support.** One meeting for support was organized at the beginning of the month, whereas the meetings for support with the IIEP team were completed in two other schools. The focus of these meetings was on the initial planning of the final promotional events in the demonstration schools by giving instructions how to prepare the products resulting from the project activities for presentation before the wider audience (parents, teachers, representatives of the local authorities and representatives of educational institutions).



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- **Field trips.** During the month, all primary demonstration schools organized field trips. The primary schools from Kumanovo organized a three-day field trip to Struga in which approximately 100 students participated, while the primary schools from Ohrid and Kicevo organized a four-day field trip to Pelister, in Bitola in which approximately 70 students participated from every school. Part of the classes at the field trip were held together with the students studying in different languages of instruction, and all extra-curricular activities were held with joint participation of all students regardless of their language of instruction.
- **Excursions in the demonstration schools.** The secondary school of civil engineering and architecture from Skopje organized a one-day excursion in Ohrid on 10 May. The students participated in the effort to break the Guinness record for the longest folklore dance. The trip was also used for sightseeing of Ohrid. Approximately 150 students from different ethnic communities participated in the excursion.
- **Parent initiatives.** During the past month, a group of parents from the two partner demonstration schools from Kumanovo organized a visit to a church and a mosque, which visit included both parents and students. In the secondary school of economics from Gostivar, the parents organized four home visits, i.e. one visit to the homes of the representatives from every community. The students from all communities were welcomed as guests in the manners typical for the host groups.
- **Training for parents for raising the awareness about the need to learn the language of the neighbours.** A two-day training was organized on 18-19 May. It was attended by 6-7 parents from all primary demonstration schools. The goal of the training was to introduce various strategies for advancement of the learning of the language of the “neighbor”, as well as identification of the barriers that hinder a more active approach when it comes to language learning.
- **Knowledge Olympic Games.** Several English language teachers from the primary school “Bratstvo Edinstvo” from Ohrid who teach students from different languages of instruction organized Knowledge Olympic Games in which students participated divided into four teams, all of them with a mixed composition.
- **Promotional Events in the Demonstration Schools.** Three promotional events were held in the course of the month. On 16 May, the two partner schools from Kumanovo promoted their activities and products at an event on which, in a fair-like fashion, with stalls, various groups presented their activities, products and results. The primary schools from Kicevo and Ohrid promoted their activities on 23 May in the Cultural Center in Ohrid by showing multimedia contents from all undertaken activities within the IIEP. The secondary schools demonstration schools promoted their activities on 26 May in the Secondary School of Economics in Gostivar. At all events, there were acts by integrated teams with certain cultural and entertainment acts. The events were attended by a large number of teachers, students, parents, as well as representatives of local educational institutions and representatives of the local authorities.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Training for the SRT for maintenance of the schools – part one.** The first part of the trainings for maintenance of the schools was implemented in the following four schools from Phase 3:
 - Municipal Secondary School “Bogdanci”, Municipality of Bogdanci
 - Primary School “Bratstvo Edinstvo”, Municipality of Ohrid
 - Primary School “Riste Ristevski”, Municipality of Debar and
 - Primary School “Sande Sterjoski”, Municipality of Kicevo.



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The focus of the trainings was put on the identification of the renovation needs, the definition of the priorities and the preparation of the application and the renovation budget. These trainings were attended by 31 participant, representatives of the school renovation teams. With this, all 13 schools included in the activities from component 4 for 2014 received this part of the trainings.

- **Submission of applications for renovation.** Upon the organization of the trainings for maintenance of the schools - first part, the schools were submitted the documents that need to be filled out in order to apply for the priority project for renovation. Eleven schools submitted their applications for renovation.
- **Training for the SRT for maintenance of the schools – part two.** The second part of the trainings for maintenance of the schools was implemented in the following three schools from Phase 3:
 - Primary School “Bratstvo Edinstvo”, Municipality of Ohrid
 - Primary School “Riste Ristevski”, Municipality of Debar and
 - Primary School “Sande Sterjoski”, Municipality of Kicevo.

The focus of the trainings was put on the preparation of the annual plans and budgets for maintenance of the school and the collection of additional funds. These trainings were attended by 19 persons, representatives of the school renovation teams.

- **Monthly visits for monitoring of the work of the schools from Phase 2 for maintenance of the school facilities.** Upon the completed trainings for maintenance of the school facilities, for the purposes of a follow-up of the application of the acquired knowledge, in all 11 schools renovated in 2013, monthly visits were organized for monitoring of the activities of the school (secretaries, handyman and technical personnel) related to maintenance.
- **Participation of the municipalities and the schools in the process of renovation.** There is an ongoing process of documenting the participation of the municipalities and the schools in the renovation activities, which participation is to meet the necessary minimal threshold of 10%.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** The monitoring of the activities of the schools part of the component 2 from Phase 2 is ongoing. The monitoring check lists for the activities of the demonstration schools for this period have been finalized.
- **Evaluation activities.** The questionnaire for evaluation of the effects of the IIEP activities was given to representatives of the SIT and the Parents’ Council. Separate reports were developed for focus groups with students.
- **Phase 2 of the electronic study.** The Macedonian version of the electronic application for the electronic study was also tested by the IIEP team.
- **Cooperation with the MES.** A three-day meeting was realized with representatives of higher education institutions related to the monitoring and the evaluation of the activities for integrated education within the MES.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Primary School "Nikola Karev" from Kocani.
- Meeting of the team which shall work on the educational documentary "7x7" in cooperation with the Macedonian Institute for Media and the Macedonian Radio and Television.
- Conducting non-formal meetings with editors and journalists.
- Regular updating of the information and publishing of news and stories about the course of the activities on the project's web page: www.pmio.mk

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Implementation of the first mentoring meeting with the schools from Phase 3.
- Implementation of the fourth mentoring meeting with the schools from Phase 2.
- Implementation of a one-day IIEP training intended for the responsible officials for education in 41 municipalities from Phase 3.
- Implementation of IIEP trainings for the representatives of the professional services and the School Boards for all schools from Phase 3.
- Joint sports and entertainment activities for the students from the Primary School "Vrapciste" – Vrapciste.
- Support to the professors from the teacher –training faculties about the integration of the IIE concept in the curriculum and in the preparation of the Guideline for IIE in the teacher training faculties.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Implementation of self-evaluation of the partner demonstration schools.
- Debriefing meeting with the partners and the advisors from the BDE who are responsible for the monitoring of the activities in the demonstration schools.
- Organization of three cross-school working meetings for planning, coordination and development of action plans.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Organization of trainings for the SRT for maintenance of the schools – part two. In the remaining 10 schools from Phase 3, the second part of the training for the SRT for maintenance of the schools shall be organized. By doing so, all 13 SRT-s from the schools from Phase 3 will be covered with the trainings for maintenance of the schools.
- Renovation applications. Two schools shall submit their applications for renovation and thus all 13 schools from Phase 3 will have completed the process of preparation and submission of the applications for renovation.
- Monthly meetings for monitoring of the maintenance activities. Organizing monthly meetings in 11 schools from Phase 2 for monitoring of the works for maintenance in the schools.
- Memorandums of cooperation. Signing of memorandums of cooperation with the schools and the municipalities from Phase 3 for the renovation activities.
- Tenders for selection of most favorable contractors. Announcement of public tenders for selection of the most favorable contractors for the school renovation activities.



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Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring the activities implemented by components.
- Implementation of the electronic study.
- Preparation of questionnaires for evaluation of the activities of the project.
- Finalization of the evaluation of the effects from the IIEP activities in the sample of schools included in Phase 2 and 3.