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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

August 2014

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Implementation of two one-day workshops for effective public presentations in the context of interethnic integration in education for members of the School Integration Teams (SITs).** These workshops were attended by one member of the SIT-s from primary and secondary schools from the Skopje region. The purpose of these workshops is for the representatives of the SITs to develop skills for informing of the public and the local communities about activities and events in the sphere of the interethnic integration and cooperation that are implemented in their schools.
- **Conducting a meeting with the chief editor of the Telma TV station.** At the meeting information were provided about the IIEP activities and discussions took place about the selection of material which shall be presented at various programs on Telma TV station.
- **Guest appearance in the morning programme on Macedonian Television** by The Chief of Party of USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project, Nebojsa Mojsoski accompanied by Despina Tomashevsk, student at the elementary school "Alexander Urdarevski" as a participant of the joint student activities. The discussion focused on the current activities of the project as well as specifically for joint student activities between elementary school "Alexander Urdarevski" from Cucer Sandevo Skopje and Blace satellite school which holds the same name.
- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about our activities.** Part of the activities during the month of August 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

- **Preparation of a module for advanced training for schools with two/three languages of instruction.** The draft contents of the module for advanced training for schools with two/three languages of instruction have been prepared. Based on the previous notions and the identified needs of the schools, the focus was put on the development of the competences of the teachers for implementation of multicultural and joint student activities which are expected to result in extensive cooperation and friendship among the students and ensuring the sustainability of the IIE.
- **Preparation of a manual for the procedure for certification for IIE.** A draft version has been prepared of the manual for certification which needs to be adopted by the responsible persons in the BDE. The certification procedure shall provide a confirmation for the teachers, the directors and the professional associates that they have acquired competences that contribute to the promotion of the IIE.
- **Dissemination of trainings for interethnic integration in the schools from Phase 3.** In



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the course of this month, the implementation of trainings for dissemination at school level by the SITs continued in the schools from Phase 3. The purpose of the trainings was for everyone in the school to get informed of about the concept of interethnic integration, which promotes a model of education in which the students from different ethnic communities are enabled to participate in joint activities.

- **Guidelines for continuation of the IIE activities.** The pilot schools and the schools from Phase 2 were provided with guidelines for continuation of the activities for IIE in the school year 2014/2015. Professional support shall be provided which will be implemented via professional meetings and visits to the schools. Furthermore, best practices about interethnic integration continue to be published on the project web site.
- **Continuation of the mentoring meetings with the schools from Phase 2 and 3.** The joint mentoring meetings with the groups of schools from Phase 2 and 3 which were not implemented in June/July were held in the second half of August.
- **Preparation of a manual for the teacher-training faculties** by the designated group of authors – professors from the teacher-training faculties included in the IIEP.
- **Preparations for a joint sports and fun activities event with students in mixed ethnic groups** from five elementary schools with more than one language of instruction, which shall be held in Mavrovo in the course of the month of September 2014.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Training modules.** In the course of the month, two modules were developed for two types of trainings. The first module refers to the cooperation of the teachers through the subject teachers' expert bodies, and the second module refers to the implementation of joint extra-curricular student activities.
- **Trainings for cooperation of the teachers through subject council on school level.** Five trainings were held in the course of the second half of the month (one in every demonstration school). In the primary schools, the training is conducted with all lower grades teachers and they are expected to cooperate in the course of the school year, thus contribute to the higher level of professional development. In the high schools, the training is conducted with all teachers who teach vocational subjects. The teachers are expected to cooperate, exchange ideas and materials and to jointly participate in certain activities.
- **Trainings for teachers for implementation of joint extra-curricular activities with the students.** Two trainings were held during the end of the month. The first training was attended by teachers from the two demonstration schools with three languages of instruction, and the second training was attended by teachers from the two demonstration high schools. The training was intended for all teachers who are expected to organize joint school clubs, as well as for those who are expected to organize and implement joint events/celebrations, as well as outings and excursions. The same training will also be conducted with the two partner demonstration schools at the very beginning of the following month.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Memorandums of Cooperation.** Memorandums of cooperation were signed with the mayors of the municipalities and the directors of the schools for renovation of the following two schools from Phase 3, under which all involved parties undertook activities in the renovation process:
 - PS "Kuzman Sapkarev", Municipality of Kisela Voda;
 - PS "Sande Sterjoski", Municipality of Kicevo.



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- **Tenders for selection of the most favourable bidders.** Public tenders were announced for selection of the most favourable bidders for the activities for renovation of two schools, whereas a public opening of bids was organized for two tenders.
- **Selection of the most favourable bidder.** For two tenders meetings for evaluation with the highest ranked companies for implementation of projects were organized, and the selection of the most favourable bidder was made. The list of selected companies - contractors for two projects was published at the IIEP web page <http://pmio.mk/category/tender-results/>.
- **Preconstruction meeting.** Preconstruction meetings were organized for the companies - contractors in the presence of the representatives of the IIEP, the companies-contractors, the construction supervisors, the schools and the municipalities. Construction activities have started in three schools.
- **Technical acceptance.** The activities for installing new aluminium windows, which was an obligation of the IIEP, were completed in two schools and a technical acceptance was organized. The operations which are an obligation of the school and the municipality are underway.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** Monitoring of the activities of the schools within Component 2 of Phase 2 is underway. The preparation of the report for the monitoring of the Component 3 schools is underway.
- **Evaluation activities.** The analysis and the preparation of a report for the questionnaire for evaluation of the effects of the IIEP activities that was given to representatives of the SITs and the Parent Council in the schools from the selected sample are underway. The report from the focus groups has been finalized. The data from the delivered questionnaires for multicultural workshops have been entered in the database (in the demonstration schools).
- **Phase 2 of the electronic study.** The analysis of the data from the electronic study distributed in the schools from the pilot Phase, from Phase 2 and in the demonstration schools is underway.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Organizing one-day workshop for the members of the School Integration Teams in the region of Ohrid for effective public presentations in the context of the interethnic integration in education.
- Organizing promotional event of final product as a result of creative workshops conducted in secondary school "Cvetan Dimov".
- Organizing forum theatre debate for students from secondary schools in the City of Skopje.
- Conducting informal meetings with the editors and the journalists to inform them about the progress of the activities and mutual future cooperation.
- Presentation of the final products from the case study research.
- 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

- Adoption of the certification procedure by the responsible persons from the BDE.
- Conducting advanced training for the schools with two/three languages of instruction.
- Preparation of a manual for the teacher-training faculties.
- Implementation of the event with joint sports and fun activities of students in mixed ethnic groups, from five primary schools with more than one language of instruction.
- Organizing workshops for completion of the process of creation of instruments for measurement of the progress of the interethnic integration in education for performance of an integral evaluation.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Training for teachers for implementation of joint curriculum activities with the students.
- Training for teachers for organizing workshops with first-grade students for the purposes of their adoption of basic concepts in Albanian and Macedonian.
- Training for constructive conflict resolution for the professional services.
- Training for civic education teachers for awareness-raising about stereotypes and prejudices.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Signing contracts with the selected companies for implementation of the renovation projects in the schools from Phase 3.
- Initiation of renovation activities in the schools where the process for selection of the most favourable contractor will be finalized.
- Technical acceptance of the facilities where the construction activities will be completed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring of the activities realized per components.
- Finalization of the report from the electronic and field research (evaluation and focus groups).
- Analysis of data and writing a report from the obtained data from the questionnaires for the multicultural workshops.