

Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

June 2014

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Completion of the creative workshops** during the month of June within the six selected schools in six municipalities (Skopje, Kavadarci, Prilep, Kocani, Gostivar and Ohrid). These workshops were facilitated by the teachers under the mentorship of experts/artists for a group of 20-25 students in every school, with the aim of capacity-building, extending their developmental knowledge and skills and applying interethnic integration through creative methods and approaches. The activities/workshops were conducted in the period as of April until June 2014.
- **Ribbon cutting ceremony in PS “Nikola Karev” from Kocani.** On the occasion of the completion of the renovation process, the Municipality of Kocani and the "Nikola Karev" Primary School hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony that was attended by Captain David Bustamante from the European Command of the U.S. Army, the Deputy Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Safet Neziri, representatives from the USAID, the mayor of the Municipality of Kocani, Mr. Ratko Dimitrovski, the Principal of the “Nikola Karev” Primary School, parents, teachers and students.
- **Attending and documenting the presentation of joint student activities.** In the month of June, several events took place for promoting the joint student activities that were implemented in the course of 2013/2014 academic year. One such event was held in PS “Krste Misirkov” between the partner schools PS “Krste Misirkov” and PS “25-ti Maj”, both from the Municipality of Gazi Baba. A presentation was also held in Veles between the SS “Kole Nedelkovski” from Veles and SS “Nace Bugoni” from Kumanovo. Stories about the presentations, which covered the joint activities of the students from both schools, were published at the IIEP web page.
- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about the activities.** Part of the activities in the month of June included regular updating of information and publishing news and stories about the course of the activities on the project’s web site: www.pmio.mk. Furthermore, the third edition of the IIEP Media Digest was prepared and disseminated to all media in Macedonia.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Fourth mentoring meeting for schools from Phase 2.** The mentoring meetings for support of the school integration teams for schools from Phase 2 continued during the month. The main goal of the mentoring meeting is to provide expert support to the participants in the planning of joint activities which contribute towards an improved cooperation/interaction among the students from different ethnic backgrounds and maintaining contact and social gatherings beyond the school. The mentoring meetings are

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foreseen to provide an overview of the documentation on the implemented activities for interethnic integration as part of the external monitoring.

- **First mentoring meeting with the schools from Phase 3.** In the second half of the month, the implementation of joint mentoring meetings began with 182 schools from Phase 3. The goal of the first mentoring meeting is to provide expert support to the school integration teams for the implementation of the trainings for dissemination at a school level.
- **Trainings with representatives of professional service staff and School Boards for the schools from Phase 3.** In the course of this month, trainings were conducted for eight groups of representatives of the professional services of the schools included in Phase 3. The primary objective of the trainings is to introduce the participants to the approaches, methods and activities for the inclusion and the active participation of parents in the interethnic integration in the schools, and to the practical contribution of the School Boards in the changes aimed at interethnic integration in the education (IIE), both at a school and a community level.
- **Preparation of a Manual for IIE** for the teacher training faculties by a working group comprised of six members, professors from the five teacher training faculties included in the IIEP.
- **Incorporation of the concept of IIE in the curricula of the teacher training faculties**
General changes were made to eight curricula, of which in four curricula (Ethics, Philosophy, Methodology of Educational Work and Pedagogy at the Faculty of Pedagogy "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" - Bitola) more detail changes with listed descriptors were made.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Conducting self-evaluation of the partner demonstration schools.** During the month, the two demonstration schools in Kumanovo conducted self-evaluation with 60 students, 30 parents and all teachers as respondents. The results of the self-evaluation were processed by the IIEP team and presented at the working meeting towards the end of the month. The results indicated that in many areas there is an improvement in the perception of students between the first and the second self-evaluation (May 2013 and June 2014).
- **Debriefing meetings.** During the month, two debriefing meetings were held with the teams involved in the monitoring of project activities in the demonstration schools. One meeting was held between the CHRCCR team and the advisors from BDE, whereas the second meeting was held with the representatives of CHRCCR and representatives of the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal. In both meetings, the achievements in the demonstration schools were analyzed with a focus on the upcoming challenges for each school separately.
- **School working meetings for planning and coordination.** Towards the end of the month, three meetings for coordination and planning of project activities for the next academic year were held in three demonstration schools. Each meeting was attended by the SITs, teachers who implement the activities and parents from the Parents' Council, from two schools in each of the meetings. At the meetings, project activities which are expected to be implemented in the forthcoming school year in each demonstration school were presented, activities which are also incorporated in the Annual Program of the school.

The results of the self-evaluation of schools were jointly reviewed and analyzed with the partner schools through the prism of how the current situation in the schools is seen, how the desired position is seen, and furthermore the results were compared with those from the previous year.

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Component 4– Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Applications for renovation.** After organizing the trainings for maintenance of the schools - first part, the schools received the documents that needed to be filled out in order to apply for the priority project for renovation. Two schools submitted their applications for renovation, with that all 13 schools in Phase 3 completed the process of preparation and submission of applications for renovation.
- **Training for the SRT for maintenance of the schools – part two.** The trainings for maintenance of the schools – second part, were held in the following ten schools from Phase 3:
 - PS “Krume Volnarski”, Municipality of Prilep
 - PS “Jonce Smugreski”, Municipality of Krivogashtani
 - MSS “Naum Naumovski Borche”, Municipality of Krushevo
 - PS “Kuzman Sapkarev”, Municipality of Kisela Voda
 - PS “Goce Delcev”, Municipality of Ilinden
 - PS “Gjorche Petrov”, Municipality of Gjorche Petrov
 - PS “Chajla”, Municipality of Gostivar
 - PS “Vrapchishte”, Municipality of Vrapchishte
 - MSS “Gostivar”, Municipality of Gostivar
 - MSS “Bogdanci”, Municipality of Bogdanci

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. Thereby, all 13 SRT from the schools from Phase 3 attended the trainings for maintenance of the schools.

- **Monthly meetings for follow-up of the maintenance activities.** 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. Furthermore, all 11 schools renovated in 2012 were also visited in order to see how the maintenance of the schools is performed on long terms.
- **Memorandums of cooperation.** Memorandums of cooperation were signed with the mayors of the municipalities and principals of the schools for renovation of the following eight schools from phase 3, under which all involved parties undertook activities in the renovation process:
 - Primary School “Krume Volnarski”, Municipality of Prilep
 - Primary School “Jonce Smugreski”, Municipality of Krivogashtani
 - Municipal High School “Naum Naumovski Borche”, Municipality of Krushevo
 - Primary School “Goce Delcev”, Municipality of Ilinden
 - Primary School “Gjorche Petrov”, Municipality of Gjorche Petrov
 - Primary School “Chajla”, Municipality of Gostivar
 - Primary School “Vrapchishte”, Municipality of Vrapchishte
 - Municipal High School “Gostivar”, Municipality of Gostivar
- **Tenders for selection of the best bidding construction companies.** Public tenders are announced for selection of the most favourable bidders for the renovation activities in eight schools, whereas for three of the tenders a public opening of the bids has been organized.
- **Participation of the municipalities and the schools in the renovation process.** This month, the activities were completed for providing the necessary documentation and preparation of reports for the municipalities and the schools from Phase 2 in terms of their participation in sharing a part of the costs of the renovation projects in the schools. The

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total documented participation of the municipalities and the schools in the renovation projects from Phase 2 amounts to 12.894.948 MKD, which represents 51,96% of the total invested funds for these 11 projects.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** Monitoring of the activities of schools within Component 2 from Phase 2 is ongoing. The monitoring check lists for the activities of the partner demonstration schools for this period have been finalized.
- **Evaluation activities.** The questionnaire for evaluation of the effects of the IIEP activities for representatives of the SIT and the Parents' Council was given to the remaining schools from the selected sample. The last focus group was conducted and the separate reports for focus groups with students were summarized into one joint report.
- **Phase 2 of the electronic study.** The electronic application for the e-survey was prepared in all languages represented in the schools in the Republic of Macedonia (Macedonian, Albanian, Turkish and Serbian). An e-mail was sent to all participating schools (255) with instructions for filling the questionnaire and a separate password for each school for accessing the survey. Letter of Information about the electronic study was also sent to all municipalities included in Phase 1 and 2.

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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Preparation of the content for the third issue of the IIEP Newsletter.
- Preparation of Project Digest for the period from January 2014 until June 2014, a media digest for the month of June and the calendar for IIEP activities for July.
- Conducting informal meetings with editors and journalists for their informing on the progress of the project activities.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Implementation of the fourth mentoring meeting with schools from Phase 2.
- Implementation of the first mentoring meeting with schools from Phase 3.
- Continuation of the trainings with representatives of professional services and School Boards for the schools from Phase 3.
- Continuation of the implementation of trainings with representatives of professional service staff and School Boards for the schools from Phase 3.
- Continuation of the preparation of the manual for IIE for the teacher training faculties by a working group.
- Continuation of the process of incorporation of the concept of IIE in the curricula of the teacher training faculties.

Component 3 – Demonstration schools

- Creating bilingual workshops for acquisition of basic terms in Macedonian and in Albanian language for the first grade students.
- Creating a manual for conflict resolution for training of the representatives of the professional service staff for constructive resolution of conflicts with students from different ethnic background.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Memorandums of Understanding. Signing Memorandums of Understanding with the schools and municipalities from Phase 3 for the renovation activities.
- Tenders for selection of the most favourable bidders. Announcing public tenders for selection of the most favourable bidders for the renovation activities of five schools and organising public opening of the bids.
- Evaluation of construction companies. Organising meetings for evaluation of the first three ranked companies for implementation of projects for renovation of the schools from Phase 3.
- Signing contracts with the selected construction companies and companies for supervision over the implementation of the renovation projects of the schools from Phase 3.
- Initiating the renovation activities in the schools in which the process of selecting the most favourable bidder is completed.

Monitoring and Evaluation

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