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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

October 2014

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Preparing and organizing ribbon cutting ceremonies in the Municipal Secondary School “Naum Naumovski Borce” from the Municipality of Krusevo and in the Elementary School “Vrapciste” from the Municipality of Vrapciste.** On the occasion of the completion of the renovation process, the Municipality of Krusevo and the Municipal Secondary School “Naum Naumovski Borce”, as well as the Municipality of Vrapciste and the Elementary School “Vrapciste”, hosted ribbon-cutting ceremonies that were attended by senior representatives of the United States European Command, USAID representatives, the Minister of Education and Science, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, mayors, principals, parents, teachers and students. At these events, the joint student activities for interethnic integration were also presented. The IIEP team organized preparatory meetings, together with the schools and the municipalities.
- **Organizing two events for promotion of the creative workshops’ products.** In October, two final product presentations were organized that marked the successful completion of the implemented creative workshops in the Secondary Municipal School “Orde Copela” from the Municipality of Prilep and the Secondary Municipal School “Dobri Daskalov” from the Municipality of Kavadarci. Parents, teachers and students participated in the presentations, wherein the principals, the mayors, the municipality representatives and the representatives of the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education were also present and addressed the attendees.
- **Two forum theatre debates held with students.** In the course of the month of October, forum theatre debates were organized with the students from the Secondary Municipal School “Orde Copela” from the Municipality of Prilep and the Secondary Municipal School “Dobri Daskalov” from the Municipality of Kavadarci. The main goal was to resolve a given situation in the context of the interethnic integration in the education, in which the students from the audience actively participated and were involved by acting.
- **Coordination meetings with the partner organizations.** The IIEP team actively organized coordination meetings with the partner organizations MIM, Multimedia and Youth Educational Forum for organization and implementation of the upcoming activities, including also joint visits to municipalities and schools.
- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about the IIEP activities.** Part of the activities in the month of October 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 sixth edition of the IIEP Media Digest was prepared and shared with all media in Macedonia.



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Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Advanced training for multilingual schools from the pilot Phase and Phase 2.** In the course of this month, the implementation was completed of the advanced trainings with representatives of the School Integration Teams (SITs) from 74 schools (out of the total of 82) included in the pilot Phase and Phase 2. The main goal of the trainings was to deepen the knowledge and the skills of the participants for applying activities for democratic participation of the students and group decision making/problem solving and organizing joint activities with ethnically/linguistically mixed groups of students.
- **Preparation of the second mentoring meeting with SITs for the Phase 3 schools.** The goal of the second mentoring meeting is to provide professional support to the SITs for successful implementation and internal monitoring of the interethnic integration in education activities. With the mentoring meetings, it is planned to cover 182 schools divided into 30 groups.
- **Preparing visits to the multilingual schools from Phase 2 and monitoring of the joint activities.** The goal of the monitoring of the joint activities is to make an assessment of the successes and the challenges faced by the teachers in the practical implementation of the joint activities.
- **Preparation of a supervision meeting with the mentors.** The goal of the supervision meeting is to train the master trainers and the members of the support team from the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal to run the mentoring meetings and to monitor the IIE activities during the individual school visits.
- **Revision of the procedure and documents for awarding small grants** for interethnic integration in education activities.
- **Assessment, amendment and modification of the instruments (documents and questionnaires) for the Preparatory Phase and the Integral Evaluation Implementation Phase.** The group of inspectors designated by the State Education Inspectorate, together with the state advisor to the Minister of Education, continued with their work on the modification of the documents and the questionnaires with contents pertaining to the interethnic integration in education. The modifications will be entered in the Integral Evaluation Manual.
- **Event for joint sports and fun activities of students in ethnically mixed groups.** This event was held at the football field Boris Trajkovski – Madzari, Municipality of Gazi Baba and it gathered students from five multilingual elementary schools: Elementary School “Svetozar Markovic” - Staro Nagoricane, Elementary School “Alija Avdovic” - Batinci, Elementary School “Draga Stojanovska” – Rakotinci, Sopiste, Elementary School “Bratstvo Edinstvo” - Konjari, Petrovec, and Elementary School “Kiril i Metodij” - Stajkovci, Municipality of Gazi Baba.
- **Developing the final texts of the Manual for Interethnic Integration in Education** for teacher training faculties by the authors of the manual.
- **Final activities in editing the Manual for Interethnic Integration in Education** for teacher training faculties.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Election of school communities.** In all demonstration schools, democratic elections were implemented for election of the student representatives in the students' bodies.
- **Training for student representatives in the students' school bodies and teachers/coordinators of democratic participation.** Two trainings were conducted in the course of this month. The first training was held with students from all elementary



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demonstration schools, and the other training was held with students from the two secondary demonstration schools. The goal of the trainings was for the participants to get to know each other better, to build group cohesion, to inform the students of their role as representatives in the students' school bodies and to motivate the students to take school initiatives for making changes. The trainings resulted in four specific action plans at school level (two for the partner demonstration schools) which will be implemented throughout the school year.

- **Training for the representatives of the partner organizations and the BDE advisors for implementation of meetings for support.** Two trainings/working meetings were organized with representatives of the partner organizations and another meeting was held with the advisors from the Bureau for Development of Education. The meetings were used for presentation of the activities that are expected to be implemented in the demonstration schools throughout the school year. Furthermore, at the meetings, the strategy was adopted for implementation of meetings for support in the demonstration schools, which strategy stipulates coverage of different activities by different partners.
- **Meetings for support.** Five meetings were held by representatives of the Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution, representatives of Loja, representatives of Sumnal (only for the elementary demonstration schools) and the BDE advisors. At the meetings, discussions were held with teachers – implementers of activities, as well as with representatives of the SITs, about the activities that have been initiated in this school year.
- **School Performances.** Three school performances were organized in the course of October in the school "Bratstvo Edinstvo" from Ohrid, and two school performances were organized in the school "Sande Sterjoski" from Kicevo. All school performances comprised of several integrated acts prepared and performed by students from different languages of instruction.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- **Technical acceptance.** The renovation activities that were an obligation of the IIEP were completed in three schools and a technical acceptance was organized.
- **Monthly meetings.** Meetings were held in 11 schools from Phase 2, aimed at monitoring of the maintenance procedures and activities.
- **Energy efficiency.** A technical report was elaborated for the performed energy audit of the Municipal Secondary School "Vanco Prke" in Vinica, Municipality of Vinica. The report also includes recommendations for the types of interventions that are recommended in order to increase the energy efficiency of the school building.
- **Equipment for maintenance of school buildings.** The firms were selected from which the necessary tools for maintenance of the schools will be procured and contracts were signed with them.
- **Delivery of equipment for maintenance of the school buildings.** For the schools renovated in Phase 3, storage, branding, packaging and delivery of the equipment for maintenance of the school buildings was organized, including also a manual for their use. The delivery will be performed in the course of November.
- **Training for technical personnel and secretaries from the schools from Phase 3.** The preparation of materials for training of technical personnel and secretaries from the schools from Phase 3 is underway.
- **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 from Phase 3 in the renovation activities, which participation is to meet the necessary minimal threshold of 10%.



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Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Monitoring activities.** Monitoring of the activities of the schools within Component 2 of Phase 2 is underway. The summary report of the monitoring and evaluation of Component 3 schools is being finalized.
- **Evaluation activities.** The analysis and the processing of data from the completed questionnaires for the multicultural workshops in the demonstration schools, for the school years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 are underway. The questionnaires for evaluation of the multicultural workshops in the school year 2014/2015 were sent.
- **Electronic study.** The report from the electronic study implemented in the schools from Phase 1, Phase 2 and the demonstration schools has been finalized.
- **Cooperation with the MES for M&E.** In October, we participated in the presentation of the MoES activities with reference to the piloting of the M&E plan in the pilot schools selected as part of their activities.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Elementary School "Gjorce Petrov" from the Municipality of Gjorce Petrov and in the Municipal Secondary School "Gostivar" from the Municipality of Gostivar.
- Organizing a promotional event of final product as a result of creative workshops conducted in the municipal secondary school "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" from the Municipality of Ohrid.
- Organizing a forum theatre debate for the students from the secondary schools from the Municipality of Ohrid.
- Organizing three one-day workshops for the members of the school integration teams in the regions of Prilep, Vinica and Kavadarci for effective public presentations in the context of interethnic integration in education.
- Conducting informal meetings with the editors and the journalists in order to inform them about the activities within the project and the future cooperation.
- 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

- Second mentoring meeting with school integration teams for Phase 3 schools.
- Visits to the multilingual schools from Phase 2 and monitoring of the joint activities.
- Preparation of a supervision meeting with the mentors.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Training for constructive conflict resolution techniques for the representatives of the professional services from the demonstration schools and other schools.
- Training for bilingual multicultural workshops with teachers from all model schools.
- Holding meetings for support in all demonstration schools.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools and Communities

- Technical acceptance of the renovated school building in the village of Berovci, Municipality of Prilep, after the completion of the construction activities.
- Organizing a presentation of the technical report from the performed energy audit of the Municipal Secondary School "Vanco Prke" from the Municipality of Vinica before representatives of the schools from the municipality.
- Delivery of the equipment for maintenance of the school buildings and the manual for its usage to the schools renovated in Phase 3.
- Training for technical personnel and secretaries from the schools from Phase 3.
- Documenting the participation of the municipalities and the schools in the renovation activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring the activities implemented by components.
- Supplementation of the report from the monitoring and evaluation of the Component 3 activities and finalization of the monitoring of the Component 2 activities.