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## Interethnic Integration in Education Project

### MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

February 2015

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#### I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

##### Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Coordination meetings with partner organizations.** Meetings were held with three of the partner organizations for the purposes of coordinating the activities from Phase 3 of the IIEP and joint assessment of the work plan and budget for 2015.
- **Preparation and monitoring of the Open Day in the Secondary School “Zdravko Cvetkovski” from Skopje.** The community outreach team monitored and participated in the process of preparation of the Open Day in the secondary school “Zdravko Cvetkovski” from Skopje. Steps were taken for documentation of the activities and publication of an article at the web site of the IIEP for the open day in the school.
- **Revision of the web site of the IIEP.** Meetings were held for revision of the web site of the IIEP so that the published materials would be more easily accessible to the visitors.
- Preparation of the contents of the fourth edition of the Newsletter. Narrative stories were collected arising from the IIEP activities within the four components, as part of which the obtained materials were revised.
- **Briefing with editors.** A briefing was held with editors and journalists to inform them about the achievements made so far, with a special focus on the findings of the monitoring, the evaluation and the challenges of the IIEP. At the briefing, a discussion and exchange of ideas were also encouraged in terms of the future cooperation between the IIEP and the journalists for their involvement in sharing the information with the public.
- **Presentation of the IIEP/MCEC at the fair of the Peace Corps.** At the fair organized by the Peace Corps of Macedonia, the IIEP made a presentation and the possible cooperation with Peace Corps volunteers was discussed.
- **Preparation and monitoring of the Open Day in the secondary school of economics “Gostivar” from Gostivar.** The demonstration secondary school of economics “Gostivar” from Gostivar was visited in order to be supported in terms of the organization of the event and documenting the activities on the open day in the school, implemented within the IIEP.
- **Preparation of the video for the creative workshops.** The scenario was prepared for the documentary about the creative workshops, as part of which the introductory and final part, as well as the narration of the video, were recorded.
- **Guest appearance on the morning program of the Albanian desk of MRTV.** The Community Outreach Coordinator, Xhevahire Pruthi Zajazi and the Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, Sara Osmani participated in the morning program of the Albanian desk of the MRTV in order to share the achievements made in 2014 within the IIEP.
- **Visit and participation in joint activities.** A visit was made to the secondary school “Braka Miladinovci” from the Municipality of Ilinden and the elementary school “Bratstvo Edinstvo” from the village of “Konjari in the Municipality of Petrovec, in order to record the joint activities of the students. The IIEP team participated in the joint activities together with a journalist of the newspaper VEST who prepared and published an article about the joint activities.
- **Public presentation of the final product from the creative workshops.** A multimedia performance was organized, which was a result of the hard work of the students from different ethnic backgrounds from the secondary technical school Gostivar from Gostivar. These students jointly participated in the creative workshops and they had an opportunity, in front of more than 500 citizens of Gostivar, to present their efforts and their cooperation as a good



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example for the future interethnic cooperation in the schools.

- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about the IIEP activities.** Part of the activities 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](http://www.pmio.mk). Furthermore, the ninth edition of the IIEP Media Digest was prepared and shared with all media in Macedonia.

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

- **Revision of the module for advanced training for the Phase 3 schools.** The contents of the module for the advanced training for the schools in which the instruction is implemented in more than one language has been revised. Based on the insights made so far and the identified needs of the schools, the focus was put on the deepening of the competences of the teachers for implementation of multicultural workshops, joint student activities and activities for democratic participation of the students.
- **Meeting of the working group for Component 2 and 3.** The achievements from the work in the past period and the work plan for 2015 were presented at the meeting that was held with the representatives of the IIEP, the key education institutions and the donor organizations UNICEF and OSCE. Discussions were made about the project activities, the achievements, the sustainability of the project and the necessary support and cooperation by the key educational institutions that are crucial for the provision of mechanisms for sustainable interethnic integration in the educational system. It was concluded that this working group should develop a strategy for sustainability of the project achievements.
- **Support visits to multilingual schools from pilot phase and Phase 2.** At the support visits, support was given to the multilingual schools, during which the joint activities were monitored by the master trainers and the representatives of the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal. The purpose of these visits is to provide support to the school integration team in the implementation of the joint activities and to the achievement of the goals for promotion of the interethnic integration.
- **Second mentoring meeting with school integration teams for Phase 3 schools.** At the meeting, the members of the SIT exchanged experiences and opinions for the implemented/planned activities in their schools and they jointly discussed and analysed the aspects that contribute to the successful implementation of the IIE activities. For that purpose, instruments have been prepared with criteria for successful implementation and monitoring of the joint student activities and independent multicultural activities that were delivered to the schools. The main role of the mentors is to facilitate the process of reflection and to give feedback to the participants for promotion of their competences for successful implementation of the joint and multicultural activities.
- **Implemented meetings with the SITs from several elementary and secondary schools.** Meetings were held to encourage of future activities for interethnic integration in the following schools: elementary school Vasil Glavinov – Veles, the secondary school Kosta Racin – Veles and the secondary school Mihajlo Pupin – Skopje, the secondary school Braka Miladinovci – Dracevo, Kuzman Sapkarev – Dracevo, the elementary school Kiril i Metodij – Romanovce, the elementary school Istikbal and the secondary school 8 Septemvri - Tetovo. At the meetings, the achievements made so far were assessed, as well as the challenges in terms of the activities for interethnic integration in the schools, and a respective support was provided for implementation of the IIE activities.
- **Approval of small grant applications.** In line with the sent corrections to the small grant applications, a total of 44 schools received a grant approval. Additional 30 schools sent corrected applications whose approval is in the process of preparation. The project team is communicating with the other schools that submitted a small grant application in order to provide them with support for the finalization of their applications.
- **Visit to the secondary school Braka Miladinovci – Dracevo.** Two workshops were



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implemented in the school with students from the two languages of instruction (Macedonian and Albanian) as part of the activities supported with the small grant. The students independently selected the topics of the workshops, and they planned and implemented them in accordance with an agenda designed thereby (translated into Albanian) in the presence and with the participation of several parents. The activities at the workshops were implemented very dynamically and with a big commitment of the students.

- **Visits to joint student activities.** The project team provided support in terms of the planning and the preparation, as well as a visit during the implementation of joint student activities of the elementary school Hristijan Todorovski Karpos from Rankovce and the elementary school Kultura from Matejce; the elementary school Toli Zordumis from Kumanovo and the elementary school Kliment Ohridski from Delcevo and the elementary school Bratstvo Edinstvo from Petrovec and the elementary school Goce Delcev from Ilinden.
- **Joint sports and fun activities.** A meeting was held with the trainers to select 10 elementary schools with more languages of instruction were selected for participation in joint sport and fun activities of students in 2015. An action plan was prepared for the work in this project year.
- **Finalization of the manual for the teacher-training faculties.** A meeting was held with the SIT of the elementary school Sande Sterjoski from Kicevo for supplementing the text of the manual for the purpose of showing the successful stories and the lessons learned from the implemented IIE activities in a more authentic manner, such as the demonstration school.
- **Cooperation with the municipalities.** The responsible persons in the municipalities were contacted in order to review the implementation of their action plans for IIE. So far, action plans from 15 municipalities were submitted. The project team is in a constant communication and all municipalities are regularly visited.
- **Selection of municipalities for deeper cooperation for IIE.** The project team selected the following 10 municipalities for deepening the cooperation in 2015: Brvenica, Vrapciste, Kriva Palanka, Lipkovo, Gazi Baba, Saraj, Mavrovo and Rostuse, Centar Zupa, Sveti Nikole and Negotino. A preparation was made for organizing meetings with the mayors from the municipalities for more detailed agreement of the manner of cooperation.
- **Contract on cooperation with the State Examination Centre.** During the month, a Contract on cooperation with the State Examination Centre was signed and the first work meeting was held with the IIEP teams and SEC.

### Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Consultation meetings with the members of the SIT.** Two meetings took place, one with the secondary school of economics Gostivar and one with the partner demonstration schools in Kumanovo. The meetings were attended by the representatives of the SIT and by teachers who implement different types of project activities. A reflection was made to the implementation of the project activities in the course of the first semester, and the strengths and the challenges for improvement were identified.
- **Open Days.** Four public promotions of project activities - Open Days were organized in the secondary school Zdravko Cvetkovski, the elementary school Sande Sterjoski, the secondary school of economics Gostivar and the elementary school Bajram Sabani together with the elementary school Braka Miladinovci. The events were attended by parents, directors of other elementary and secondary schools, representatives of the municipalities, the Bureau for Development of Education, the State Education Inspectorate, teachers and students from the host schools, and in Gostivar, also the students from the elementary schools. All events were implemented in two parts. In the first part, the schools were presented with integrated acts, whereas in the second part in several separate premises/classrooms, different groups presented parts of their activities.
- **A seminar with the SITs from the demonstration schools for planning and reinforcing the effects from the project activities.** At the seminar, all schools emphasised the IIE areas which proved to be the most successful ones, and identified the areas that were less



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successful for each school. Furthermore, strategies were developed in terms of what the management, the SIT and the IIEP team can do to reinforce the effects from the activities in the second semester of the school year. A plan was made to organize a closing conference for promotion of the project activities, including a concept for documenting the best practices in the implementation of the activities in the form of best practices manual.

- **A consultative meeting was held with the partner organizations (Loja and Sumnal).** At the meeting, experiences were discussed from the meetings for support in the first semester, emphasising the areas in need of additional attention so as to intensify the activities. Also, a check list for direct monitoring of the activities was presented, which shall be filled out electronically. At the end, the strategies were discussed for implementation of the meetings for support in the ongoing semester.
- **Support meetings. A total of four meetings took place in the last week of the month.** At the meeting, it was discussed with the teachers who implement the activities and the representatives of the SIT about the implementation of the current activities in the month. Certain activities/classes were observed.

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

- **Demonstration schools.** The remaining three demonstration schools will be included in the work on Component for providing incentives to schools and communities: the elementary school „Braka Miladonovci“ and the elementary school „Bajram Sabani“ from Kumanovo and the secondary school „Zdravko Cvetkovski“ from Skopje.
- **Selection of 10 schools.** Based on the defined criteria, the Working Group selected 10 schools that will participate in the Component for providing incentives to schools and communities in 2015. Letters have been sent with notification regarding the results from the selection to all selected schools and municipalities. The list of the 10 selected schools is published on <http://pmio.mk/news/>.
- **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.** Activities were monitored (mentoring meetings, networking meetings, joint student activities, etc.) that were implemented within Components 2 and 3. A check list and electronic application were prepared for entering the data from the monitoring of the school activities within Component 2 of phase 3. The check list was presented in front of the persons responsible for monitoring of the joint student activities of Component 3.
- **Informative meeting with editors and journalists.** An informative meeting took place with editors from different media, to whom the monitoring and evaluation results of IIEP activities were presented.



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### II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

#### Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Establishing a commission and evaluation of the received applications from the secondary schools regarding the production of multimedia contents in the context of interethnic integration in education.
- A ribbon-cutting ceremony on the occasion of the completion of the renovation of the ES Kuzman Sapkarev, Dracevo, Municipality of Kisela Voda.
- Selection of municipalities and schools for creation of creative corners.
- Monitoring of the activities of YEF within the debate clubs.
- Preparation of a promotional event for the documentary video from the creative processes within the IIEP in the secondary schools.
- 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](http://www.pmio.mk)

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

- Continuation of the second mentoring meeting with SIT for Phase 3 schools.
- Continuation of the support visits to the multilingual schools from Phase 2 and monitoring of the joint activities.
- Meeting with the group for integration of the interethnic integration in the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- Organizing advance level trainings for the schools with more languages of instruction from Phase 3.
- Organizing meetings with the mayors from the selected 10 municipalities.
- Visit to the selected 10 schools for student sport and fun activities.
- Provision of support in terms of the planning, preparation and implementation of joint student activities, supported with the small grants.
- Preparation of the module for the fund raising forums.

#### Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Implementation of a training with representatives of the school boards, municipalities, management and parents for raising the awareness about the need of learning the other languages.
- Implementation of training for constructive conflict resolution for the representatives of the professional services from all demonstration schools.
- Organizing a training for the SITs from all demonstration schools for planning of activities in the second semester of the academic year.
- Implementation of five meetings for support (one in every demonstration school).

#### Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools

- Visit to the 13 schools, establishing School Renovation Teams (SRTs) and preparation of trainings.
- Monthly meetings in 13 schools from Phase 3 for monitoring of the works for maintenance of the schools.
- Documenting the participation of the municipalities and the schools in the renovation activities.

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

- Monitoring the activities implemented by components.
- Preparation for the evaluation of the effects from the IIEP activities.