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Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

December 2015

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Ribbon cutting ceremony in the primary school “Dame Gruev”, from the village of Erdzelija, Municipality of Sveti Nikole.** Together with the Municipality of Sveti Nikole and the elementary school "Dame Gruev", a celebration was organized on the occasion of the completion of the renovation activities: replacement of windows and entry doors. At this event, the joint student activities implemented with the partner school Rilindija from Lipkovo were also presented, so that these stories for the creation of ethnic harmony and cooperation among the students, their parents, teachers and neighbours would be shared.
- **Workshops within the creative corner in the secondary schools Drita and Mirko Mileski from Kicevo.** The team, in partnership with PAC Multimedia organized a permaculture workshop in which the students who participated in the creative corner had the opportunity to learn the permaculture concepts and to acquire new skills for use of different natural materials. During the workshop, the students and the teachers practically worked together on the arrangement of the school yard of the “Drita” and “Mirko Mileski” schools.
- **Training for the SITs of the demonstration schools for communication with the public.** The IIEP team, together with MIM, held a one-day training with SIT members of the six demonstration schools for communication with the public. The training was intended to develop the skills for use of information tools such as the social networks, the web pages and the media. The participants also had the opportunity to perfect the skills of journalistic writing aimed at covering the activities in their schools.
- **Appearances on the Macedonian Radio and Television and Alsat M.** As a result of the successful implementation of a large number of joint activities, representatives of the schools in Brvenica and the Municipality of Brvenica appeared on the afternoon show on Alsat-M. Also, representatives of the partner elementary schools Dame Gruev from Sv. Nikole and Rilindija from Lipkovo appeared on the morning show of Alsat-M in order to present their commitments and the joint student activities. Representatives from the partner demonstration schools “Bajram Sabani” and “Brakja Miladinovci” from Kumanovo also appeared on the morning show on MRTV.
- **Ceremony for awarding the first IIE certificates.** In cooperation with the MES and the BDE, a ceremony was organized for awarding the first IIE certificates. The first school to which these certificates were awarded is the elementary school Rajko Zinzifov from the Municipality of Cair. The school, together with all its associates, had the opportunity, in front of teachers, principals and parents from all the schools from this municipality, to present the activities and to share the results and the positive examples aimed at interethnic integration in the education.
- **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. The media digest was prepared and shared with all media throughout the country. In addition, the activities organised during this period were also supported and covered by the media.



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Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Visits for support during evaluation and monitoring of a joint activity.** 20 visits for support of the multilingual schools from all phases were implemented. The IIEP team, in cooperation with the master trainers and the mentors from the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal provided support to the SITs during the implementation of the process of evaluation of a monitored joint activity.
- **Ceremony for awarding the first IIE certificates.** On 24 December, in the elementary school Rajko Zinsifov in Skopje, a ceremony was held during which the first certificates were awarded for participation in training sessions and acquired competences for IIE trainer-mentor of the SIT members and for participation of the teachers in a dissemination training.
- **Announced competition for innovative practices for interethnic integration.** The goal of the competition is to recognize and to praise the teachers, the principals and the professional associates for their successful application of interactive methods and approaches that enable the students to develop competences and values for interethnic integration. The best selected examples of innovative IIE practices will be published and presented at a National Festival to be held in June 2016.
- **Revision of the procedures for application for a small grant for joint student activities.** In line with the previous experience from the work with the schools that have applied for a small grant for joint student activities, the project made a revision of the application procedure.
- **Opening a call for application for a small grant for joint student activities.** The call for application for a small grant for joint student activities was sent to all schools that have not used a small grant within the IIEP until now. Furthermore, support was provided to the schools that are part of the small grants program, in terms of the preparation of administrative and financial documents for payment of the grants.
- **Preparation of a Student Camp documentary.** The first version of the documentary for the student camp organized by the project in the course of October was finalized.
- **Presentation of the school IIE activities in the Municipality of Brvenica, one of the 10 municipalities for enhanced cooperation.** Presentation was held in the PS “7 Marsi” from the village of Celopek, Municipality of Brvenica, at which the students and the teachers presented their joint curriculum and extra-curricular activities implemented in the 3 elementary schools in the Municipality (“7 Marsi”, “Koco Racin” and “Goce Delcev”). The event was attended by students, teaching and managerial staff of the schools and representatives of the offices in the municipality.
- **The IIE concept was prepared for the module for training of the principals of the elementary schools and the high schools.** The IIEP and SEC working groups jointly defined the topics that will be included in the training module for the principals. Presentations were prepared and materials were delivered as support for the trainers at the training for principals for more comprehensive IIE training of the candidates for future principals.
- **Coordination meeting with OFFS for planning the joint student sports activities.** A reflection was made on the success of the prior joint sports and fun activities and future activities for 2016 were planned.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Long term student activities.** In all demonstration school, new groups of students were formed, who will participate in the activities of the school clubs and the multicultural workshops.
- **Outings and school shows.** At the beginning of the month, a one-day outing was organized along the walking track by the River of Vardar in Gostivar. At the outing, there were 30 students from all languages of instruction and ethnic communities, as well as about 10 teachers from the secondary school of economics from Gostivar. Also, two school shows were



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held in the demonstration schools. The two shows were held on the occasion of the Turkish Language Education Day—21 December, at which the students from all languages of instruction presented integrated acts.

- **Student initiatives.** In the course of the month, the students from the high school from Gostivar made an initiative, by sending a letter to the management, requesting improvement of the hygiene in the school as one of the problems that were identified at the regular meetings of the presidency of the school community. In the PS Sande Sterjoski, the students from the school community participated in the preparation of materials for the New Years' Bazaar and they participated in the bazaar by covering some of the stands with New Year crafts. In Ohrid, the students from the school community participated in a humanitarian action for collection of clothes that was then donated to children with special needs.
- **Cooperation among teachers.** In the two three-language primary demonstration schools, 6 joint integrated classes were organized with students from lower grades studying in two different languages of instruction, as well as integrated English language classes.
- **Training for media coverage of events.** 14 representatives of the demonstration schools attended a training for use of the social media and the web pages for strengthening of the effects from the project activities, as well as regular public relations sharing.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools

- **Technical acceptance.** The activities for renovation of the primary school “Pere Tosev” from the village of Dupjacani from the Municipality of Dolneni were completed and a technical acceptance of the building was organized in the presence of the contractor, the supervisor, representatives of the municipality, the school and the IIEP.
- **Application for selection of schools.** The application was prepared for selection of schools, as well as a manual for filling out the application and the criteria according to which the selection will be carried out of the schools that will be included in the activities of Component 4 in 2016. A public call was prepared that will be published in two daily newspapers (in Macedonian and Albanian), as well as invitations to the municipalities and schools for participation in the selection of schools that will participate in the work of Component 4 in 2016.
- **Round table with consultants and supervisors.** A round table was organized with representatives of the consulting companies, supervisors and representatives of the MES/Capital Investments on the topic of “Renovation, supervision and maintenance of the school buildings, achievements and challenges”.
- **Animated video on the Manual with a Handbook for Maintenance of School Buildings.** An animated video was prepared for presentation of the contents of the Manual with a Handbook in Macedonian, Albanian and English.
- **Participation of the municipalities and the schools in the process of renovation.** There is an ongoing process of collection of the necessary documentation for 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

- **Electronic survey.** It was conducted a monitoring of the IIEP activities and presentation of the electronic survey before the team and the members of the working group of MES for monitoring and evaluation.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Preparations for a public event for promotion of the Manual with a Handbook for Maintenance of School Buildings in cooperation with component 4.
- Preparations for a public event for promotion of the animated videos as a tool for implementation of a joint integrated school performance, a short-term joint activity and a long-term joint activity, in line with the criteria for interethnic integration in education.
- Preparations for work meetings with the demonstration schools, the municipalities and the local media.
- 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

- Continuation of the visits to multilingual schools from Phase 3 for provision of support to the evaluators in the monitoring of joint activities.
- Visits for support in the renovated schools for piloting the self-evaluation instrument.
- Mentoring meetings for sustainability of IIE in the renovated schools.
- Supervision meeting with the master trainers and mentors from the partner organizations Loja and Sumnal.
- Selection of schools for small grant for joint student activities.
- Print of posters-IIE tools and their distribution to all schools.
- Print and promotion of the publication for the teacher training faculties.
- Print of the Handbook for joint student sports and fun activities.
- Selection of 10 municipalities for enhanced cooperation.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Implementing regular extracurricular activities, school clubs and multicultural workshops.
- Joint integrated classes and implementation of student initiatives.
- Training for the SITs for organization of quizzes and debates.
- Visit/working meetings with representatives of the local media from all municipalities.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools

- Public event for promotion of the Manual with a Handbook for Maintenance of School Buildings.
- Delivery of the Manual with a Handbook for Maintenance of School Buildings to the Ministry of Education and Science, all municipalities, primary and secondary schools and educational institutions in the Republic of Macedonia.
- Publishing a public call for selection of schools that will participate in the work of component 4 in 2016.
- Documenting the participation of the municipalities and the schools in the renovation activities.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Presentation of the results from the electronic survey.
- Preparation of a mini handbook for electronic survey.