



Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

for the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

March 2016

I. IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Ribbon-cutting ceremonies in the elementary schools in Caska and Prilep.** The IIEP team in cooperation with the elementary schools Petre Pop Arsov, Municipality of Caska, and Kiril and Metodij, Municipality of Prilep, organised ribbon-cutting ceremonies at which they celebrated the completion of their renovations. This event was used for presentation of the student activities that are implemented in partnership with the other schools throughout Macedonia in order to share the good practices and examples that contribute to the creation of ethnic harmony and cooperation among the students, their parents and teachers.
- **Creative workshops.** The five selected secondary schools started to implement the cycle of long-term creative workshops with the students. The teachers, who were previously trained for implementation of these activities, under the mentorship of the IIEP team, will conduct the workshops with the selected group of students once a week in the course of 5-6 months. The table below shows the selected municipalities and the secondary schools that conduct the creative workshops.

Municipality	School
Krusevo	SS "Naum Naumovski Borce"
Tetovo	SMU "Mosa Pijade"
Sveti Nikole	SS "Koco Racin"
Radovis	SS "Kosta Susinov"
Gevgelija	SS "Josif Josifovski"

- **Training on forum theatre methodology.** The group of 10 teachers from the five selected schools that conduct the creative workshops were also trained to use additional methodology/tool for resolving various situations - forum theatre. In March, the teachers participated in the first training module for forum theatre methodology and in the course of the months of May and June the teachers will continue to build their capacities through two more modules from this methodology that will be further disseminated to the other teachers and students in their schools.
- **Public Debates.** A concept for organising public debates was prepared on the topic *"What kind of local community do the young people need and what kind of young people does the local community need"*. The first debate was held in Tetovo in the premises of the partner organisation LOJA, which was attended by more than 60 participants – representatives of the municipalities, teachers and students from the secondary schools and representatives of the partner organisations. The second public debate, in cooperation with the debate club from the secondary school Orce Nikolov, was organised at the Faculty of Pedagogy at which over 200 students and teachers from the secondary schools from Skopje were invited and attended.
- **Training on debate programme.** The SS "Cvetan Dimov", Municipality of Cair, organised one day training for a group of 25 secondary school students. The training was aimed at training the students about the basics of the debate programme (world school debate format), the basic elements of the debate and debate simulation on the thesis: *"The formal education is the main factor in the process of integration of young people"*.



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- **Guest appearances.** The IIEP team appeared as guests on several television morning shows in order to share the results, the activities and the progress of the schools. On the regional K1 Television from Veles, a member of IIEP and a teacher from the “Lirija” school from Gorno Jabolciste, shared their experiences on the activities which are implemented in the schools in the Municipality of Caska. On the morning show of the Macedonian Television, the teachers from the partner elementary schools from Skopje, “Bratstvo” and “Vera Ciriviri Treña” shared with the public their excellent cooperation and partnership which resulted in positive changes and results of the students, the teachers and the parents.
- **Regular informing of institutions, municipalities and schools about the IIEP activities.** Part of the activities covered regular updating of information and publishing news and stories about the course of the activities on the project’s web site: www.pmio.mk. The media digest was also 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.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Workshop for the schools that are part of the small grants programme.** A workshop was conducted with 5 schools that didn’t manage to attend the workshops that were organised in the course of February. At the workshop, the schools had the opportunity to learn about the administrative and financial obligations related to the grant, to analyze the criteria for successful joint student activity in more detail, and to acquire additional knowledge about the promotion of the activities supported by the grant.
- **Implementation of joint student activities supported with the small grants programme.** A total of 33 joint student activities were implemented by the schools that are part of the small grants programme. Concurrently, the project provided support and visited the following schools during the implementation of the activities: Goce Delcev, Kavadarci and Vasil Glavinov, the village of Buzalkovo, Veles; Toli Zordumis, Kumanovo (independently); Koco Racin and Naim Fraseri, Kumanovo; Diturija, Lipkovo and Vik Karadzik, Kumanovo; 7 Marsi, Celopek, Brvenica (independently); Draga Stojanovskia, Sopiste (independently); Petar Zdravkovski Penko, Butel (independently); 11 Oktomvri and Jeronim de Rada, Kumanovo; Enver Stafai, Gostivar and Lazo Micev Rale, Kavadarci.
- **Support provided to schools for preparation and implementation of activities supported with a small grant.** Support was provided to the schools for planning and implementation of the activities that are financially supported with the small grants, for the purposes of successful implementation of the activities in line with the IIE criteria.
- **Planning a video on the cooperation among the students.** A concept for making short video with students was designed for the purposes of raising the awareness about the contact and cooperation among the students from different ethnic communities.
- **First meetings with the SIT coordinators and the school principals in the municipalities for enhanced cooperation.** In the remaining 6 (six) municipalities, for the purpose of enhanced cooperation (Krusevo, Gostivar, Cucer Sandevo, Stip, Radovis and Ohrid), the responsible persons for education organised the first meetings with the SIT coordinators and the school principals aimed at advancing the cooperation between the municipalities and the schools for strengthening the IIE at the school and municipal level.
- **Training of the teachers-trainers on joint sports and recreational activities.** After the conducted meetings with the managements of the selected 10 (ten) multilingual elementary schools, a two-day training was held for the teams of teachers, who will implement the joint sports and recreational activities as trained teachers-trainers in the course of the regular teaching process and in the extra-curricular programme of the schools.
- **Distribution of the IIE publication intended for the teacher training faculties.** The IIE publication intended for the teacher training faculties was distributed as follows: Faculty of Pedagogy “Sv. Kliment Ohridski” - Skopje, Faculty of Educational Sciences – Stip, State



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University of Tetovo – Tetovo, Faculty of languages, cultures and communication within the University of SEE – Tetovo, Institute of Pedagogy – Skopje.

- **Working meetings on IIE with education advisors and inspectors in the municipalities.** In cooperation with the Working Group for integrated education within the Ministry of Education and Science, in coordination with the OSCE Mission, 3 (three) one day working meetings were held for informing on the current and expected activities and the achievements in the field of interethnic integration in education at which education advisors and inspectors were invited from all municipalities in the Republic of Macedonia.
- **Workshops with school integration teams from the renovated schools (Phase 1, 2 and 4).** Workshops were conducted that were attended by 20 schools divided in three groups (out of the total 32). The purpose of the workshops was to review the activities for IIE implemented so far and to define priorities in the planning of the future activities for advancement of IIE, as well as the activities for sustainability of the accomplished changes.
- **Support during the implementation of mentoring meetings with the SITs of the schools from all 3 phases.** Support was provided during the organization of 20 mentoring meetings that were attended by representatives of about 150 elementary and secondary schools. The goal of the mentoring meetings is to give guidelines to the schools for promotion of the quality of the IIE activities, and to enhance the capacities of the SIT for successful implementation of the certification process.
- **Support in the implementation of the visits for support during evaluation of a monitored joint activity.** The implementation of the visits for support of the multilingual schools from all phases continued. The IIEP team, in cooperation with the master trainers and the mentors from the partner organizations, provided support to the SITs during the implementation of the process of evaluation of a monitored joint activity.
- **Visits for support of the renovated schools from Phase 3.** The visits for support of the ten renovated schools from Phase 3 aimed at advancing of IIE and providing sustainability continued. The purpose of these visits is to support the SITs in the planning and monitoring of independent multicultural and joint activities and implementing an evaluation of these activities as part of the procedure for IIE certification.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Parents' activities.** Two parents' activities were initiated. A workshop was organised in Kumanovo for making decorations under the motto *a present for mom* on the occasion of the International Women's Day, 8th of March. 11 parents and 20 students participated in the workshop. In Kicevo, on the 14th of March, on the occasion of the pagan holiday Letnik, a workshop was organised for making martenitsas which was attended by 12 parents from 4 different communities and 14 students from all languages of instruction. The students will wear the martenitsas until St. George's Day when they will gather again and will have additional activities.
- **School Performances.** On the occasion of the 7th of March, the International Women's Day and the 8th of March, the Day of the Albanian Teacher, a school performance was held in the elementary school "Bratstvo Edinstvo" in Ohrid with integrated performance acts, whereas on the occasion of the Spring Day a school performance was held in Kumanovo with integrated performance acts between the two partner demonstration schools.
- **Integrated regular classes.** A total of eight integrated English classes were held. Two between the partner schools from Kumanovo, three in Kicevo and three in Ohrid.
- **Multicultural workshops.** A total of 32 multicultural workshops with 14 different groups were held in all demonstration schools.
- **Joint student activities.** A total of 22 regular meetings of 8 different school clubs were held as part of the joint student activities in all demonstration schools.
- **Student initiatives.** On the occasion of the 8th of March, the students from the School



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Community in the SGGU Zdravko Cvetkovski organised humanitarian action with sales exhibition of flowers and handmade jewellery, which were made in advance by the students from the school community.

- **Meetings for support.** A total of five meetings were held for supports of the SITs and the teachers who implemented the activities. Each school held a class with minimum one activity and the other groups held a discussion on the implemented activities. At the end of the month, three additional meetings for support were held in three demonstration schools. The advisors from the Bureau for Development of Education held three meetings for support of the IIEP activities which are closely related to the advisors' expertise.
- **Involvement of the Municipalities.** Two working meetings were held in Gostivar and Ohrid with the representatives of the municipalities at which the specifics of the demonstration schools and the challenges they face in their everyday work were discussed.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools

- **Visit to the schools of Phase 5.** The team of Component 4 of the IIEP visited 13 newly selected schools that will be included in the work of the component in the course of 2016. At the introductory meeting of the schools, the activities were presented in terms of how to establish the School Renovation Team (SRT) and which activities should be implemented in the course of 2016.
- **Establishing School Renovation Teams (SRT).** In all 13 schools, second meetings were held during which school renovation teams were established. The school renovation teams are comprised of 6 to 11 members, representatives of the school, the school board, the parents' council, the municipality and the local community. The SRTs comprise members of all communities of the local community and thus they reflect the environment in which the school operates.
- **Training for Module 1 for the members of the School Renovation Teams (SRT).** For the members of the SRT from the schools from Phase 5, one-day training was organized in hotel Continental in Skopje. The purpose of the training is to present the manners, the methods and the criteria for determination of the renovation needs and priorities within the school, preparation of renovation application and budget, as well as procedures for preparation of an annual plan and budget for maintenance of the schools.
- **Memorandums of Understanding (MoU).** Memorandums of Understanding for all 13 schools were submitted to the mayors of the municipalities and the principals of the schools for signing, whereby all involved parties undertake responsibilities in the renovation process.
- **Monthly meetings in 13 schools from Phase 4 for monitoring of the works for maintenance of the school buildings.** All 13 schools renovated in Phase 4 were visited by experts and were provided with professional assistance in terms of the maintenance of the school buildings (construction positions, heating system, electrical installations and hygiene).
- **Participation of the municipalities and schools in the renovation process.** 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.** A meeting was held with the members of the MoES Working Group regarding the electronic survey. A questionnaire for electronic survey was prepared with the municipalities and the results of the monitoring and evaluation were presented before the representatives of the municipalities.



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II. ACTIVITIES FOR THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- Preparing and conducting training on debate programme within the creative corner in the SS Slavco Stojmenski, Stip, in cooperation with Multimedia and Youth Educational Forum;
- Preparing and conducting public debate in the SS Niko Nestor, Struga;
- Preparing and holding the public event for presentation of the results from the electronic survey;
- Preparation and organisation of workshops for enhanced and active cooperation of the local media and the demonstration 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

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Providing support in the planning, preparation and implementation of joint student activities supported with small grants;
- Promotion of joint student activities supported with the small grants programme;
- Two one-day workshops for parental involvement in IIE with parents and members of SIT from ten (10) elementary schools;
- Translation and graphic design of the Manual for joint student sport and fun activities;
- Translation and graphic design of the third edition of the Manual for school boards;
- Visits to multilingual schools for providing support to the evaluators in the monitoring of joint activities;
- Visits to renovated schools from Phase 3 for providing support to the evaluators in the monitoring of independent and joint activities;
- Workshops with renovated schools (two groups) for support of activities for advancement of the IIE and for sustainability of the accomplished changes;
- One-day workshops with two groups of renovated schools from the last phase.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Implementing regular extracurricular activities, school clubs and multicultural workshops;
- Holding joint integrated classes;
- Implementing student initiatives;
- Implementing parent initiatives;
- Holding meetings for support with all demonstration schools;
- Working meeting with representatives of the Municipality of Kicevo;
- Visit/working meetings with representatives of the local media from all municipalities.

Component 4 – Providing Incentives to Schools

- Field visit to the schools that have submitted an application for renovation;
- Mentoring sessions with the SRTs members in 13 schools of Phase 5 for Module 1 - preparation of a plan and budget for maintenance of the schools;
- Monthly meetings in 13 schools from Phase 4 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

- Presentation of the results from the electronic survey;
- Preparation of electronic survey with the municipalities and the schools;
- Preparation for evaluation of the activities in the demonstration schools.