

Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

of the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

NOVEMBER 2012

I. ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- *Effective interactive public presentations in the context of interethnic integration in education.* In cooperation with the partner organization Macedonian Institute for Media (MIM), four workshops were conducted in the pilot municipalities (Bitola, Tetovo, Strumica and Butel) from November 1 to November 20, 2012 for preparing effective presentations in the context of interethnic integration in education. These workshops include guidelines about structuring effective presentations, preparing for public speeches, developing press release statements, organizing press conferences, as well as how to recognize and avoid stereotypes, prejudices or hate speech. These workshops included more than 70 representatives from municipalities administration, Bureau for Development of Education, schools, Parent Councils and local NGOs.
- *Round tables and debates.* These activities were held with the partner organization PAC Multimedia in the four pilot municipalities from November 2 to November 21, 2012 to discuss the education in the multicultural / intercultural context; specifically as responsible citizens, how each individual can contribute in making the education better.
- *Five creative workshops.* For the group of 21 students from the Arseni Jovkov Secondary School in Butel Municipality, five workshops were implemented during the month of November. These activities aimed to support students on how to transform the scenarios into short videos that will promote and raise awareness about the interethnic cohesion and minimize the stereotypes and prejudices. The short videos were prepared by the students during the month of October with the help of two artists / experts in the field of recording and editing.
- *Debate trainings.* Weekly training modules during the month of November were delivered in the four selected secondary schools: Taki Daskalo in Bitola, Nikola Karev in Strumica, Nikola Stejn in Tetovo and Arseni Jovkov in Butel. These trainings were conducted in order to prepare the students for the local and national debates planned to be implemented during December 2012 in cooperation with the partner organization, Youth Educational Forum (YEF).
- *Case study: Career Development in Multicultural Environment.* IIEP in partnership with the partner organization My Career has started to implement the activity “Case study – a research of career development in multicultural environment and developing a video story that supports the case study” in two high schools: 8 Septemvri – Tetovo and Arseni Jovkov – Skopje. The activity is implemented by selected groups of 4-8 students, mentored by their teachers and representatives from My Career. The case studies research will be conducted in local companies / institutions with ethnically mixed workforce, while focusing on benefits from the multiculturalism in the career development. Participating students will gain knowledge about the methodology of writing case studies and developing video stories, which upon the completion will be promoted.
- *Ribbon cutting ceremonies.* Two events in primary schools of Mite Bogoevski in Resen and Braka Miladinovci in Zvan were organized to mark the successful completion of schools renovation (replacement of the roofs and construction of access ramps) in

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cooperation with the schools and municipalities. The ceremony was attended by the USAID Senior Education Specialist, Lela Jakovlevska, Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation - United States Embassy, LTC Mark Watkins, Mayor of Resen, Mihail Volkanovski and Mayor of Demir Hisar, Toni Angelevski, educational institutions representatives, teachers, parents, students and local community representatives.

- *Regular coverage of all activities* in the course of other IIEP components is performed through regular update of the web-site (www.pmio.mk), written stories and other instruments of information.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- *Training for School Integration Teams (SITs)*. During the period from November 2 to November 20, 2012 more than 400 SIT members from 58 pilot primary and secondary schools from the four pilot municipalities (Butel, Tetovo, Strumica and Bitola) participated on the training aimed to build capacity of the SITs related to further transfer of knowledge within their schools. The training was attended also by representatives from the four municipalities and BDE Advisors.
- *In-school Dissemination Trainings*. In aim SIT members to successfully organized the in-school dissemination trainings and coordinate the implementation of IIEP activities, the project provided them with additional materials (Manual for Extra-Curricular Activities of the Students and Manual for Democratic Participation of the Students). The materials were developed in three languages of instruction (Macedonian, Albanian and Turkish).
- *Baseline Survey*. The second part the Baseline Survey includes the field research in a sample of 21 schools and 4 pilot municipalities started on November 27, 2012. The methodology consists of questionnaires for teachers and parents, focus groups for students and interviews for school management and municipalities' representatives.
- *School Performance Quality Indicators*. Students' attainment, support to students and school climate are the three areas of the School Performance Quality Indicators that are upgraded with topics related to interethnic integration in education during a working meeting with representatives of the school management staff that was held on November 14, 2012.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- *Manual for Democratic Participation*. The manual for democratic participation was designed with a purpose to serve to the schools as guidance, when electing the student bodies at class and school level and how to enhance the students' participation in decision making process in the school context. The manual, translated in Albanian and Turkish, will be distributed to members of SIT. Also teachers will have an opportunity to improve their work with students through the guidelines provided in the manual.
- *Manual for joint students' activities*. The manual for joint students' activities offers various guidelines on how to organize joint student activities. It also includes information and instructions how to bring together schools with different languages of instruction from the same or distant municipalities.
- *Support meetings*. In each of the demonstration schools, in four pilot municipalities, support meetings were organized with the members of SITs and teachers responsible for implementing project activities in the schools. These meetings aimed at conducting monitoring and provide feedback to the teachers.
- *Extracurricular activities*. Regular extracurricular activities on weekly basis are organized in each demonstration school. A mixed group of teachers organized three extracurricular classes with a mixed group of students. According to the preferences of



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the students, one of classes was related to sport activities, whereas the other two are related to drama, ecology, small workshops for multicultural values, and similar.

Component 4 – School Incentives

- *Renovated schools.* Renovation process has been completed in two schools resulting in a total of eleven renovated schools by the end of November 2012. In the satellite primary school Marshal Tito in village Bansko, Strumica Municipality the old roof and roof construction were renovated. The total number of beneficiaries (students and school staff) included is 184. In the primary school Zivko Brajkovski in Skopje, Butel Municipality the old school gym was renovated and this activity impacts 904 direct beneficiaries (students and school staff).
- *Trainings for the School Renovation Teams (SRT).* One regional training was organized for the SRTs from the renovated schools from Pelagonia region. By the end of November 2012 four regional trainings were organized for maintenance of the school buildings. This resulted in completion of the trainings for maintenance of the school buildings in all of the eleven renovated schools in the pilot phase. At these trainings attended 97 participants, but will benefit around 9,000 children, 800 school staff and 75 maintenance staff in the participating 11 schools.
- *Mentoring sessions.* Following the completion of the trainings for the maintenance of the school buildings mentoring sessions were organized in ten renovated schools. By the end of November 2012 in all eleven schools that were involved in the renovation activities mentoring sessions were organized.
- *Strengthening of the capacities of the technical staff for maintenance of the school buildings.* The materials for the joint training for Strengthening of the capacities of the technical staff for maintenance of the school buildings are being prepared.



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II. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT MONTH

Component 1 – Community Outreach

- Organization of local and national debate competitions in 4 schools from the pilot municipalities in collaboration with the partner organization Youth Education Forum (YEF).
- Organization of Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies in Primary School Tefeyuz, Cair Municipality on December 6; Primary School Liria, Zerovjane, Bogovinje and Bratstvo Migjeni, Tetovo on December 11; and Primary School Krste Misirkov, Gazi Baba Municipality on December 18 to mark the completion of the process of renovation in the schools.
- Organization of a Study Visit for Journalists to learn and report on creative short videos that students from Arseni Jovkov will produce as positive examples toward raising awareness about the interethnic integration in education.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School

- Workshop for the master-trainers to instruct and guide in mentoring the SITs of the 58 primary and secondary schools within the 4 pilot municipalities will be delivered.
- SITs of the primary and secondary schools within the 4 pilot municipalities will have coordinative meetings for planning their activities and prepare the dissemination sessions in the schools.
- Field research activities regarding Baseline Survey will continue. Administration of the questionnaires, focus groups and interviews will be carried out in cooperation with the partner organization CHRRCR. Drafting of the final report will be completed by the end of December 2012.
- Coordinative meetings with the pilot municipalities' teams will be organized.
- School Boards training module and manual for parents and school boards will be drafted.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Training of teachers from Demonstration schools for conducting multicultural workshops will be organized.
- Conducting support meetings for the on-going in-school activities.
- Debriefing meetings between CHRRCR and partner NGOs will be organized.
- Baseline study will be carried out in each demonstration school.

Component 4 – School Incentives

- On December 12, 2012 a joint training for *Strengthening of the capacities of the technical staff for maintenance of the school buildings* will be organized. This training will be attended by the school technical staff and secretaries from the eleven schools.
- Collection of supporting documents and preparation of reports for the schools' and municipalities' cost-share for the school renovation activities will be performed.
- A meeting with the Component 4 working group will be organized to present this year's accomplishments and plan the activities for the next year.