

Interethnic Integration in Education Project

MONTHLY REPORT

of the USAID Interethnic Integration in Education Project

DECEMBER 2012

I. ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES

Component 1 - Community Outreach

- **Debate tournament for beginners.** The debate clubs from the secondary schools “Arseni Jovkov” from Skopje, “Nikola Karev” from Strumica, “Nikola Shtejn” from Tetovo and “Taki Daskalo” from Bitola sent their representatives to the **National Debate Tournament** which was held between 14th and 16th December 2012. A hundred and fifty (150) secondary school students from the schools all over Macedonia competed in a total of 103 debates in the frames of the three-day tournament for beginners on the topic: “Voting in all elections in a democracy ought to be mandatory”. Each debater took the role of contemplation about the citizens’ inclusion and the education which prepares us to become active citizens as well as the role of the people in the creating of a better society. These tournaments were organized by the Youth Educational Forum (MOF).
- **Creative expressing and connecting through short video products.** Through ten creative workshops, a group of around twenty students developed their critical thinking skills regarding the stereotypes, prejudices and discrimination on the ethnic grounds, and learned about the benefits of intercultural and interethnic collaboration. By working together, they learned about the culture of the others and they developed four short videos in order to further lobby for intercultural exchange among their peers. The students prepared the videos with the assistance of two experts for filming and editing. These activities were organized in collaboration with the Multimedia Performance and Arts Center.
- **Ribbon-cutting ceremonies.** Two ceremonies in the primary schools of “Tefejuz” in the municipality of Chair and “Krste Misirkov” in the municipality of Gazi Baba in Skopje were organized in order to celebrate the successful completion of the renovation of the schools in collaboration with the schools and the municipalities. The events were attended by USAID and EUCOM representatives, mayors, representatives of the educational institutions, teachers, parents, students and local self-government representatives.
- **Case study: Career development in a multicultural environment.** IIEP, in collaboration with the organization My Career, organized the activity entitled “Case study, research of career development in a multicultural environment and preparation of a video story” in a total of 4 secondary schools (apart from the schools “Arseni Jovkov” – Skopje and “8 September” – Tetovo, during the month of December, two more secondary schools joined: “Jane Sandanski” – Strumica and “Taki Daskalo” – Bitola). The study preparation methodology was presented in front of the student teams, and the students worked on gathering of data under the mentorship of My Career representatives and their teachers. The selected local companies for conducting of the research are: “Dauti Komerc” – Skopje, “Vezesharri” – Tetovo, JSC “Edinstvo” – Strumica, PE “Komunalec” – Strumica and “Factory for equipment and parts” within MEC Bitola.
- **All the activities** of IIEP are presented through regular updating of the www.pmio.mk website, which in 2012 got **13,303 visits**. The events held in the frames of the project in 2012 were **covered by the media** more than **130 times** (electronic and print media coverage).

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Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- **Field research.** In the period between November 27th and December 10th, 2012, a field research for assessing the current situation with interethnic integration in the education was conducted with a chosen sample of 15 primary and 6 secondary schools (21 schools in total). The research covered a total of 2321 respondents: 546 students, 1072 teachers, 661 parents and 42 principals and pedagogues/psychologists.
- **Workshop for mentoring support with master trainers.** Thirty-four (34) master trainers (19 practitioners and 15 BDE and VET Centre advisors) participated in the workshop held on December 11th 2012. During the workshop, the master trainers were trained to provide mentoring support and to convey their knowledge and experience to the school integration teams responsible for conducting the training sessions for interethnic integration in the scope of their schools.
- **Consultation meetings with the school integration teams.** In 40 primary and secondary schools (from a total of 58 pilot schools), the master trainers/mentors held consultation meetings with the school integration teams in order to prepare them for dissemination of the training cycles on the school level. The main role of the mentors was to help the school trainers to understand the content of the manuals for interethnic integration in the education and to acquire competences for successful transferring of the content to their colleagues from their schools.
- **Dissemination of training for interethnic integration in the pilot schools.** The dissemination of the training for interethnic integration in the education on the school level started in December 2012. A total of 215 teachers participated in the training sessions, conducted by the trainers from the school integration teams with the expert support of the master trainers/mentors.
- **Analysis of the curricula in the primary and secondary education.** A working group composed of BDE and VET Centre advisors completed the analysis of the existing curricula for primary, general secondary education and vocational secondary education. The goal of the analysis was to observe the inclusion of interethnic integration in the curricula and to study the opportunities for its application in the regular instruction and the extracurricular activities.
- **Preparation for regional meetings with the State Education Inspectorate.** During the month of December, the team prepared for the regional meetings with the state education inspectors which need to be held around the middle of January 2013. The goal of the regional meetings is to discuss with the state education inspectors the improvements that were made to the School Performance Quality Indicators and to receive feedback about the possibility for their application in practice.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- **Training for intercultural workshops for teachers from the model schools.** The training was organized in two parts and it was attended by a total of 26 teachers, eight teachers each from the two demonstration primary schools and four and six teachers, respectively, from the two secondary demonstration schools. The training was conducted with the support of the partner organizations “Loja” and “Sumnal”.
- **Meetings for support.** The meetings for support were organized in the four model schools with the members of the school integration teams and the teachers who are responsible for implementing the project activities in the schools. These meetings are held with the aim to monitor and give feedback to the teachers regarding the accomplished activities.

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- **Joint student activities – Drama club.** The drama club from the school in Gostivar prepared a play entitled “Initiation” and they performed it twice during the month of December. At first, on the 1st of December, they performed it at the Gostivar square in the frames of the activities to commemorate the day of the struggle against AIDS, organized by a local NGO. Also, at the invitation of the representatives of the partner organization “Loja” from Tetovo, the drama club performed the same play in the premises of Loja around the end of December, in front of an audience consisted of students from primary and secondary schools.

Component 4 – School Incentives

- **Strengthening of the capacities of the technical staff for maintenance of the school buildings.** In collaboration with the partner organization Foundation for educational and cultural initiatives Step by Step, on December 12th 2012, at the primary school Tefejuz in Skopje, there was a joint training organized and held for all 11 renovated schools with the aim of strengthening of the capacities of the technical staff for maintenance of the school buildings.
- **Participation of the municipalities and the schools in the renovation process.** The IIEP team collaborated with the municipalities and the schools in order to secure the accompanying documents and the preparation of reports on their participation in the covering of the renovation costs.
- **Informing of the donors.** There was a meeting with representatives of the donors, USAID and EUCOM, in which the goals and accomplishments of the year 2012, together with the plan of activities for renovating schools in 2013 were presented.

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II. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEXT MONTH

Component 1 – Community Outreach

- Planning and preparing of work plans and activities for 2013 in cooperation with the partner organizations Macedonian Institute for Media (MIM), Performance and Arts Center Multimedia and Youth Educational Forum (MOF).
- Through a case study: Career development in a multicultural environment, the student teams will continue to work on preparing a case study for career development in a multicultural environment and for the purpose of the research, they will visit the selected companies.
- Informing the media about the project activities.

Component 2 – Capacity Building of School Management and Teachers

- Preparing a report on the conducted electronic and field research of the current situation with the interethnic integration in the education in the Republic of Macedonia.
- The mentors will continue to have consultation meetings with the school integration teams for providing support in the preparation and implementation of the dissemination of the training on the school level, by which the consultation meetings in all 58 pilot schools will have been completed.
- The activities for dissemination of the training on interethnic integration in the education on the school level will continue in all the 58 pilot primary and secondary schools.
- The content of the final version of the module which will cover the part of the concept for interethnic integration in the education in the schools where the instruction is organized in two and/or three languages for the students, members of different ethnic communities, will be drafted.
- Selection of 40 municipalities and around 190 primary and secondary schools, using joint efforts of the IIEP team for implementing the planned activities across all IIEP components.

Component 3 – Demonstration Schools

- Meetings with the school integration teams for preparation of presentations of the activities realized in the first semester.
- Meetings – presentations of the activities of the demonstration schools in front of representatives of the Bureau for Development of Education, the State Education Inspectorate, and the Vocational Education and Training Centre.

Component 4 – School Incentives

- Defining of lists of tools for maintenance of the school buildings, preparation of tender documentation for their procurement;
- Selection of 155 schools from 30 municipalities which will be invited to apply for participation in the component 4 during 2013;
- Organizing a meeting with the Ministry of Education and Science – Department for capital investment and the working group for Component 4 in order to present the accomplishments from 2012 and the plan of activities for the year 2013.